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Durgin et al.

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(54) **THROUGH THE SCOPE TENSION MEMBER RELEASE CLIP**

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(*) Notice: Subject to any disclaimer, the term of this patent is extended or adjusted under 35 U.S.C. 154(b) by 549 days.

This patent is subject to a terminal disclaimer.

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(22) Filed: **Dec. 16, 2011**

(65) **Prior Publication Data**

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Related U.S. Application Data

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(60) Provisional application No. 60/568,418, filed on May 5, 2004.

(51) **Int. Cl.**
A61B 1/00 (2006.01)
A61B 17/122 (2006.01)

(Continued)

(52) **U.S. Cl.**
CPC **A61B 17/122** (2013.01); **A61B 17/1285** (2013.01); **A61B 17/1227** (2013.01); **A61B**

2017/003 (2013.01); **A61B 2017/00845** (2013.01); **A61B 2017/00849** (2013.01); **A61B 2017/12004** (2013.01); **A61B 2017/292** (2013.01); **A61B 2019/2242** (2013.01); **A61B 2019/2246** (2013.01); **A61B 2019/2292** (2013.01); **A61B 2019/304** (2013.01); **A61B 2019/307** (2013.01); **A61B 2019/308** (2013.01)
USPC **600/104**; 600/106; 600/129; 606/45; 606/139; 606/142; 606/161; 606/167; 606/158

(58) **Field of Classification Search**
USPC 600/104; 606/139, 142, 151, 157-158
See application file for complete search history.

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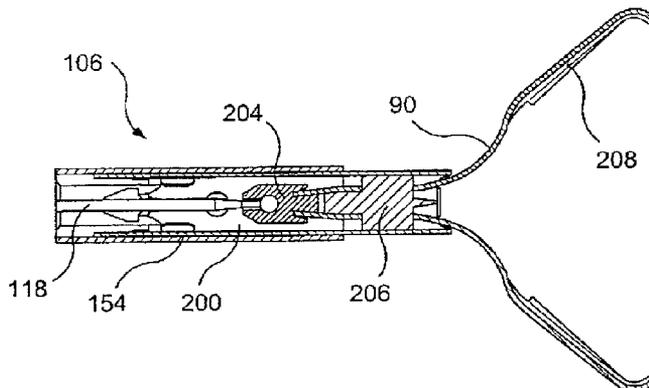
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(57) **ABSTRACT**

Apparatus includes Flexible Sheath extending from a proximal end which extends into living body; Capsule extending from a proximal to a distal end and having an opening formed in a proximal end thereof; Clip Assembly provided in Capsule and configured to be operably movable between a closed configuration in which first and second arms of Clip Assembly are drawn toward one another and an expanded configuration in which the first and second arms are separated from one another to receive target tissue therebetween; Bushing extending between a proximal end coupled to Sheath and a distal end releasably coupled to Capsule via a tab on the distal end of Bushing engaging the opening of Capsule; and Control Member a distal end of which is releasably coupled to Clip Assembly to transmit to Clip Assembly forces applied thereto to move Clip Assembly between the insertion and expanded configurations.

17 Claims, 28 Drawing Sheets



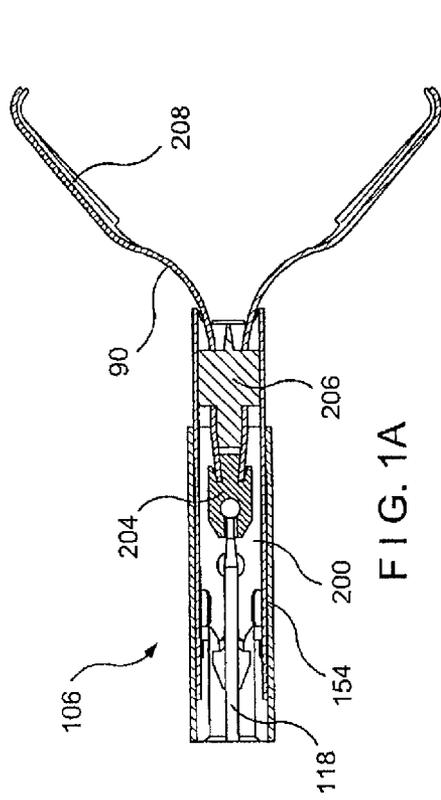


FIG. 1A

100

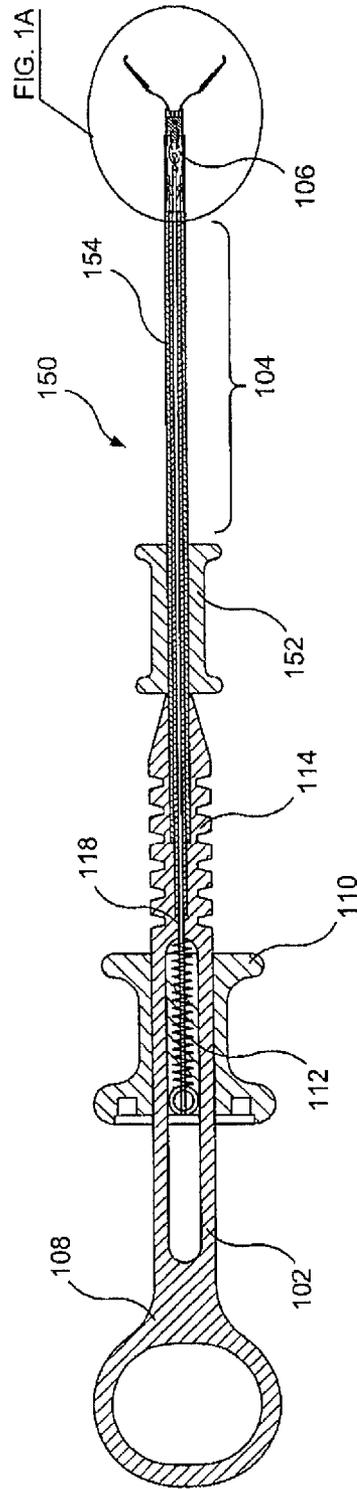


FIG. 1

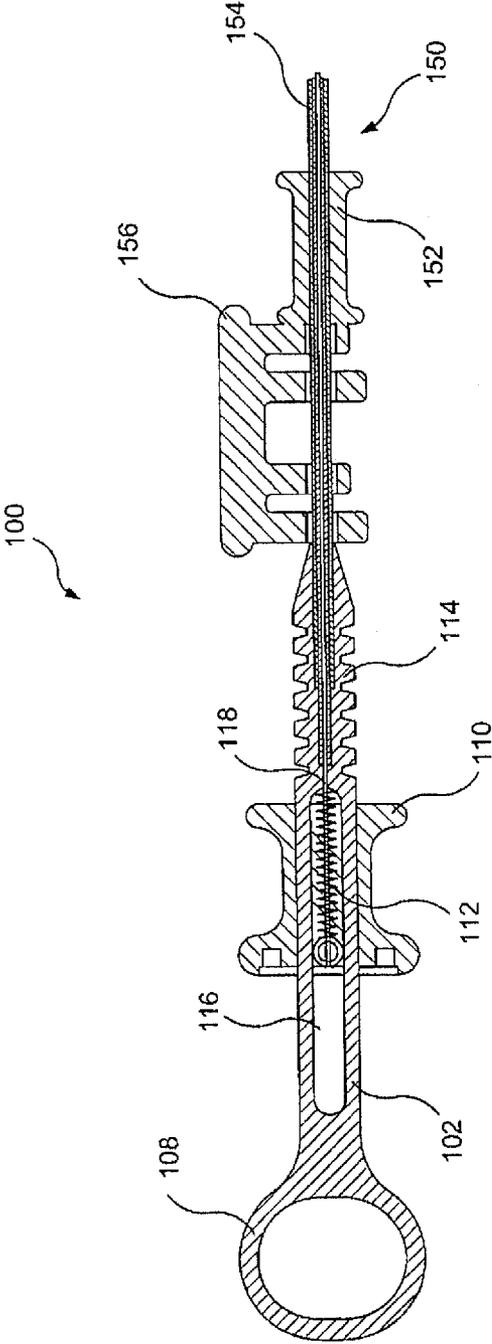


FIG. 2

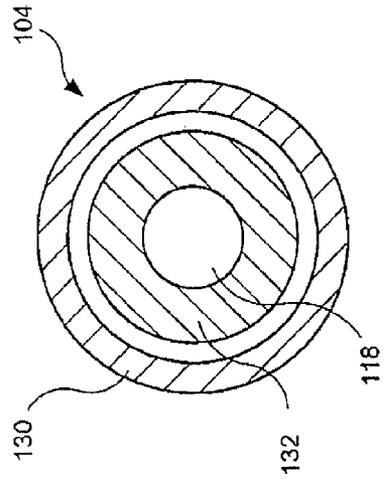


FIG. 4

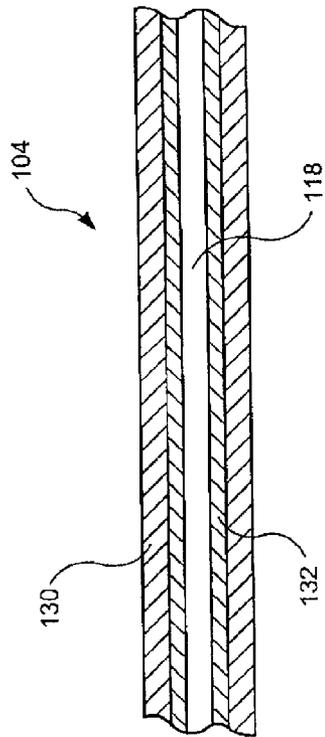


FIG. 3

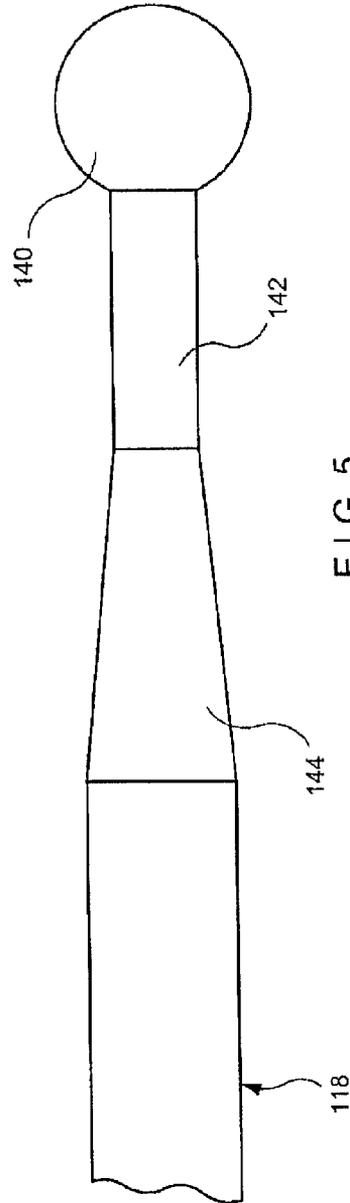


FIG. 5

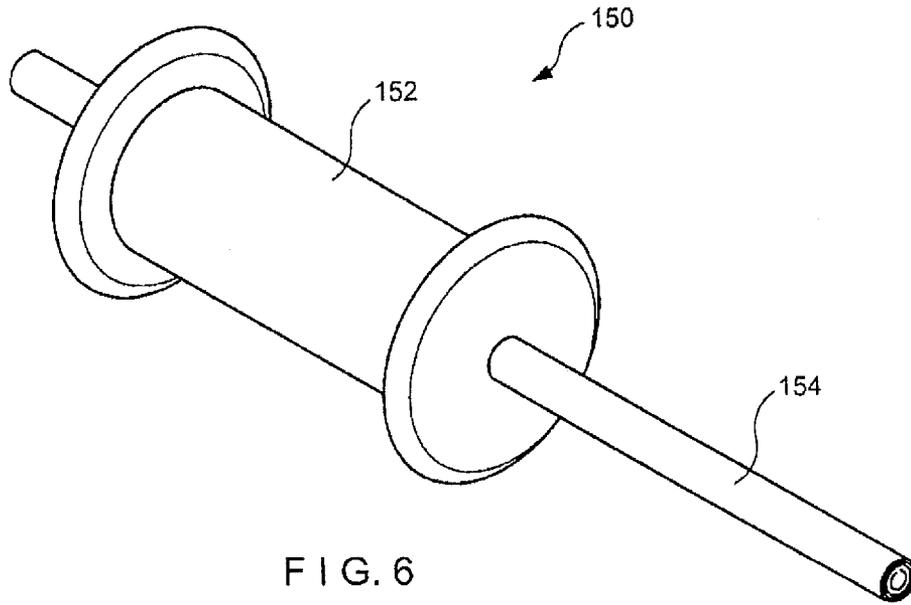


FIG. 6

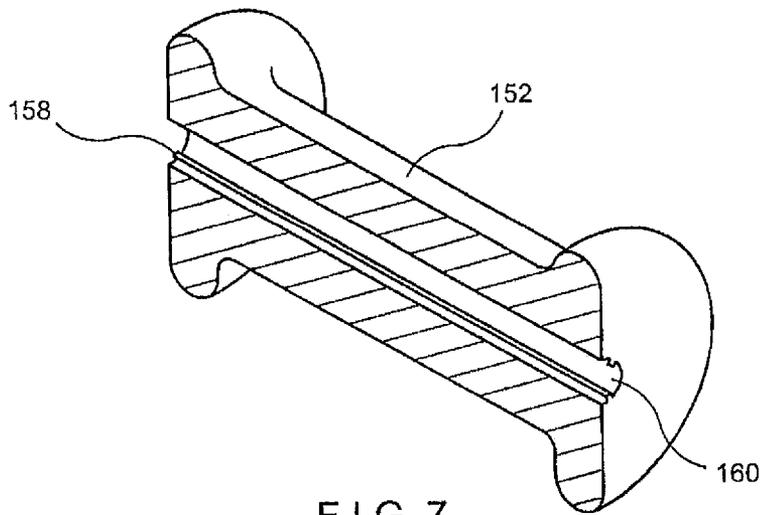


FIG. 7

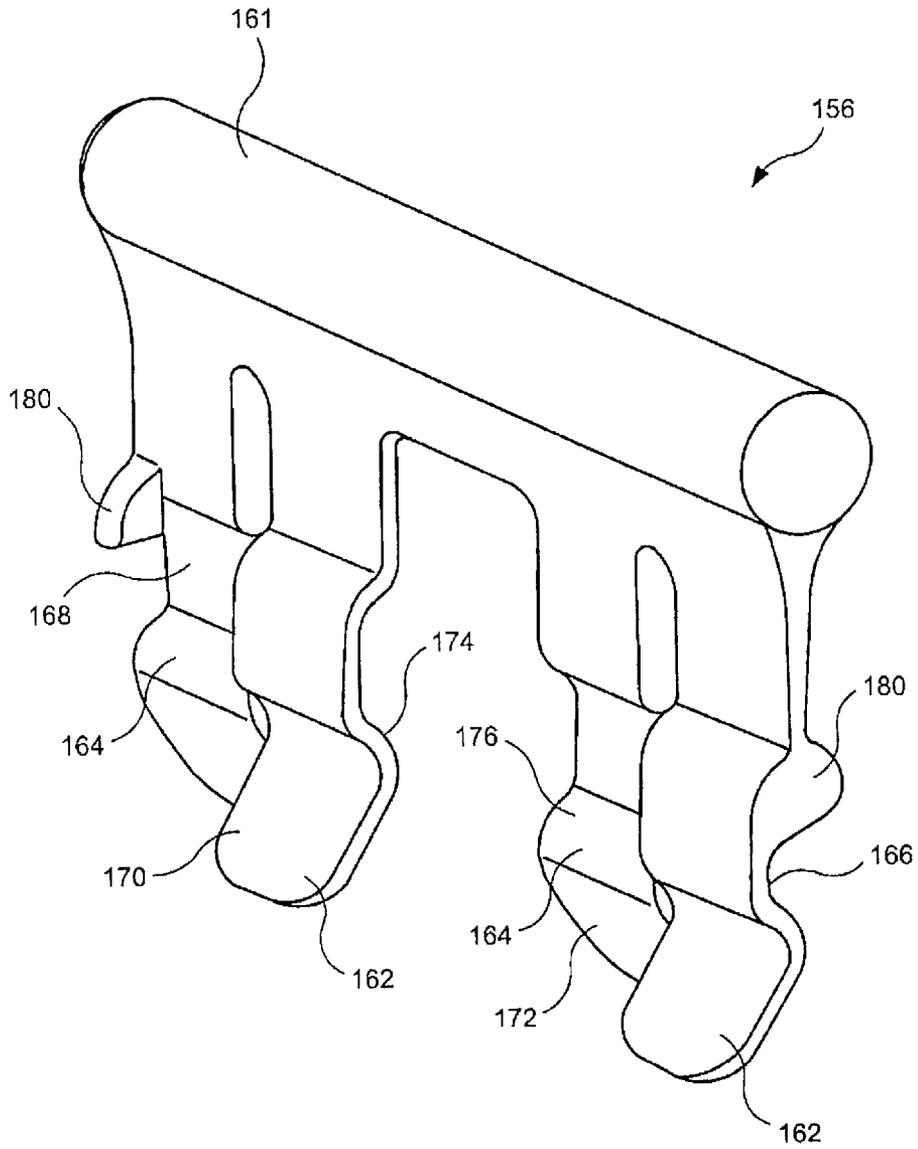


FIG. 8

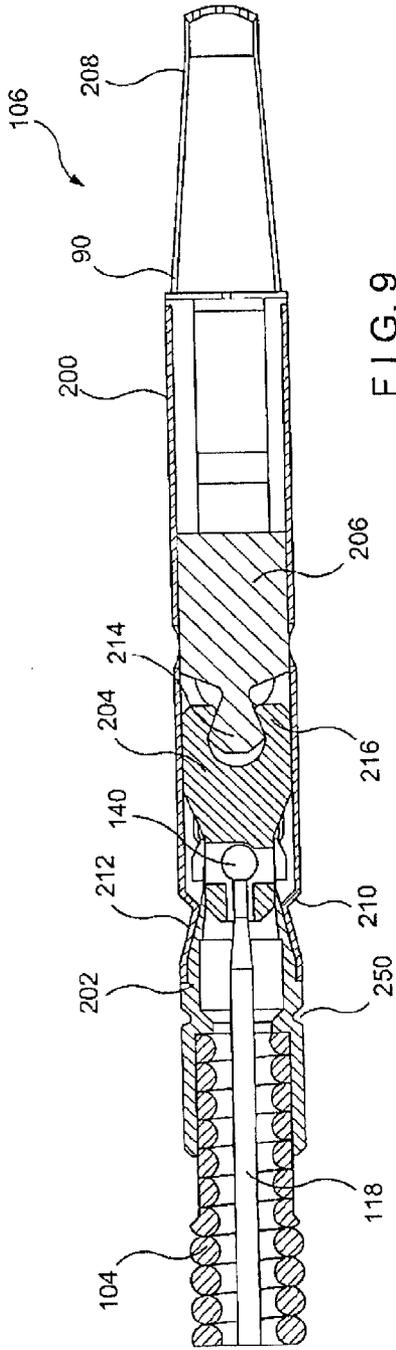


FIG. 9

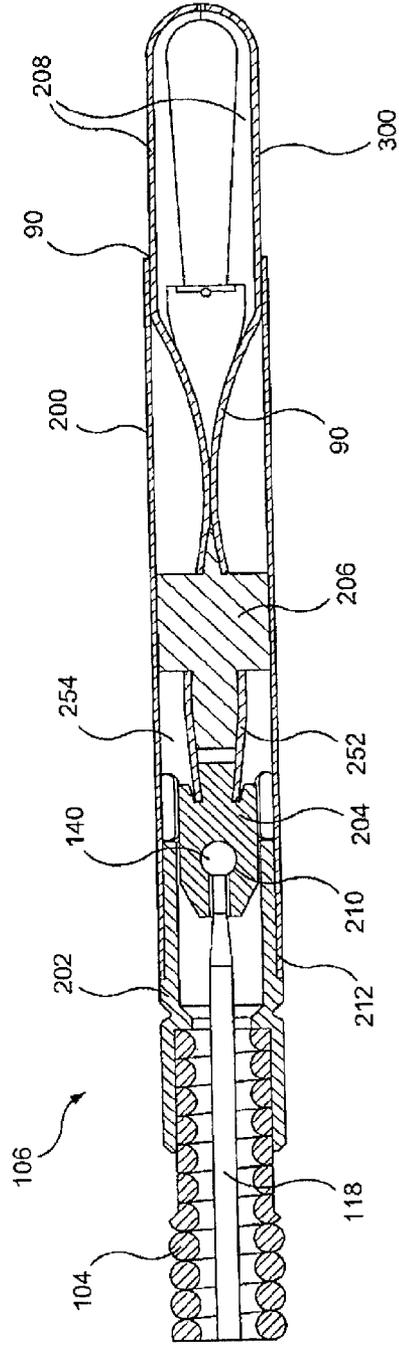


FIG. 10

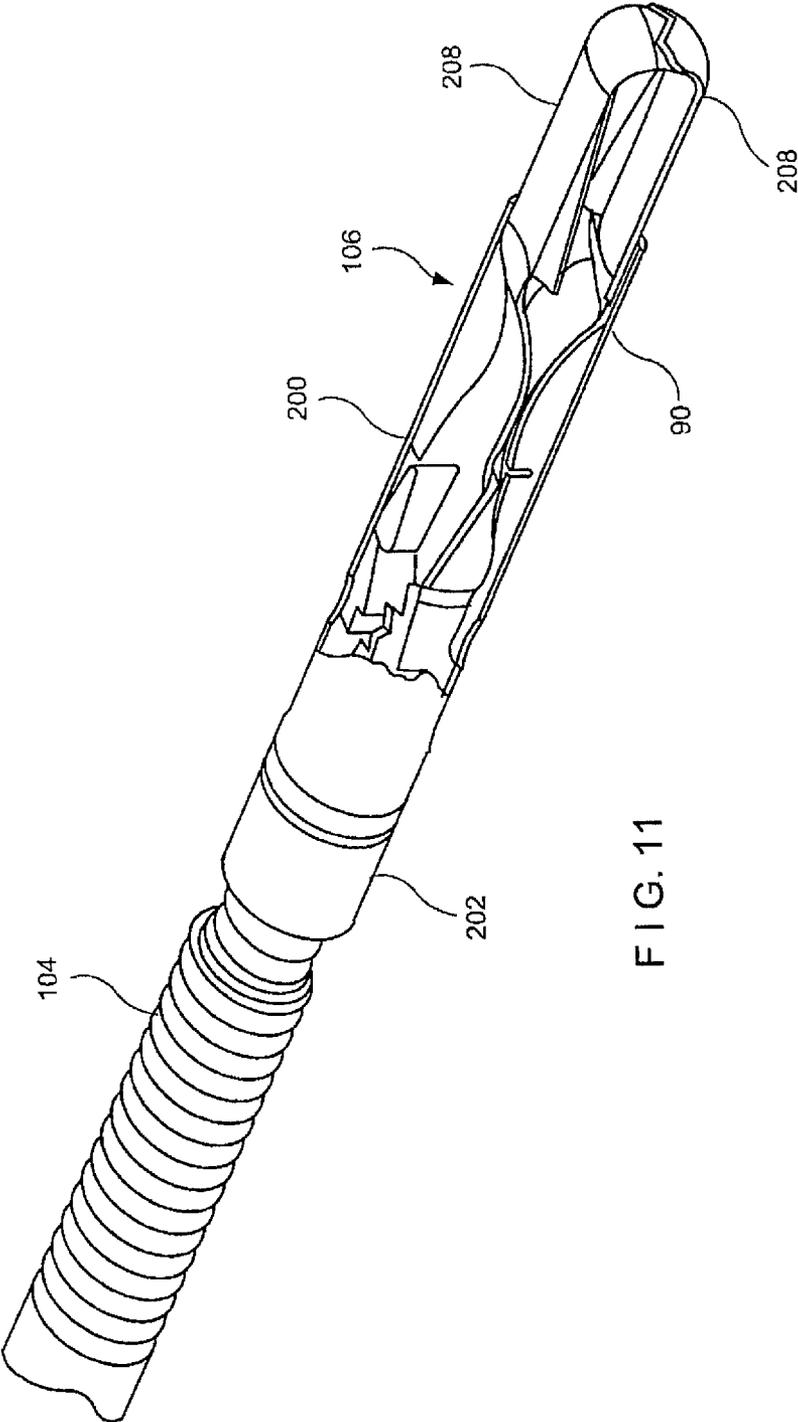


FIG. 11

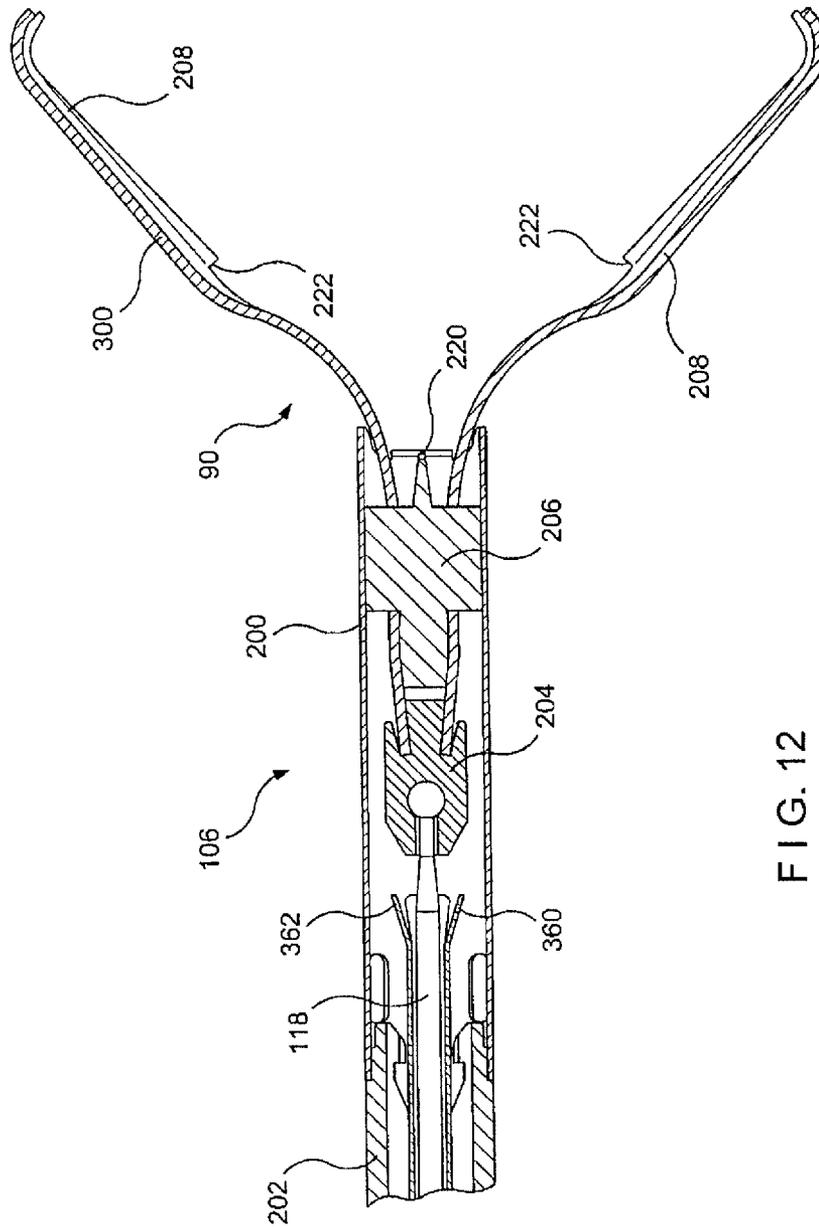


FIG. 12

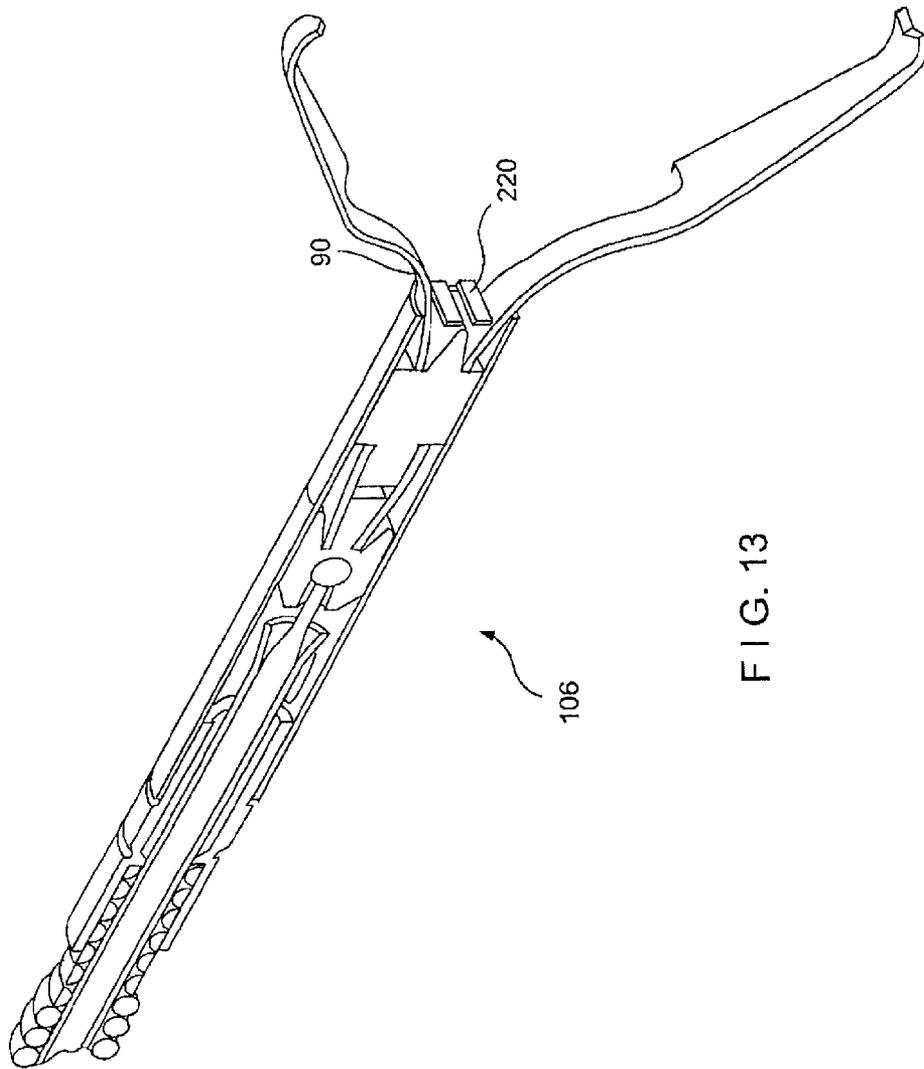


FIG. 13

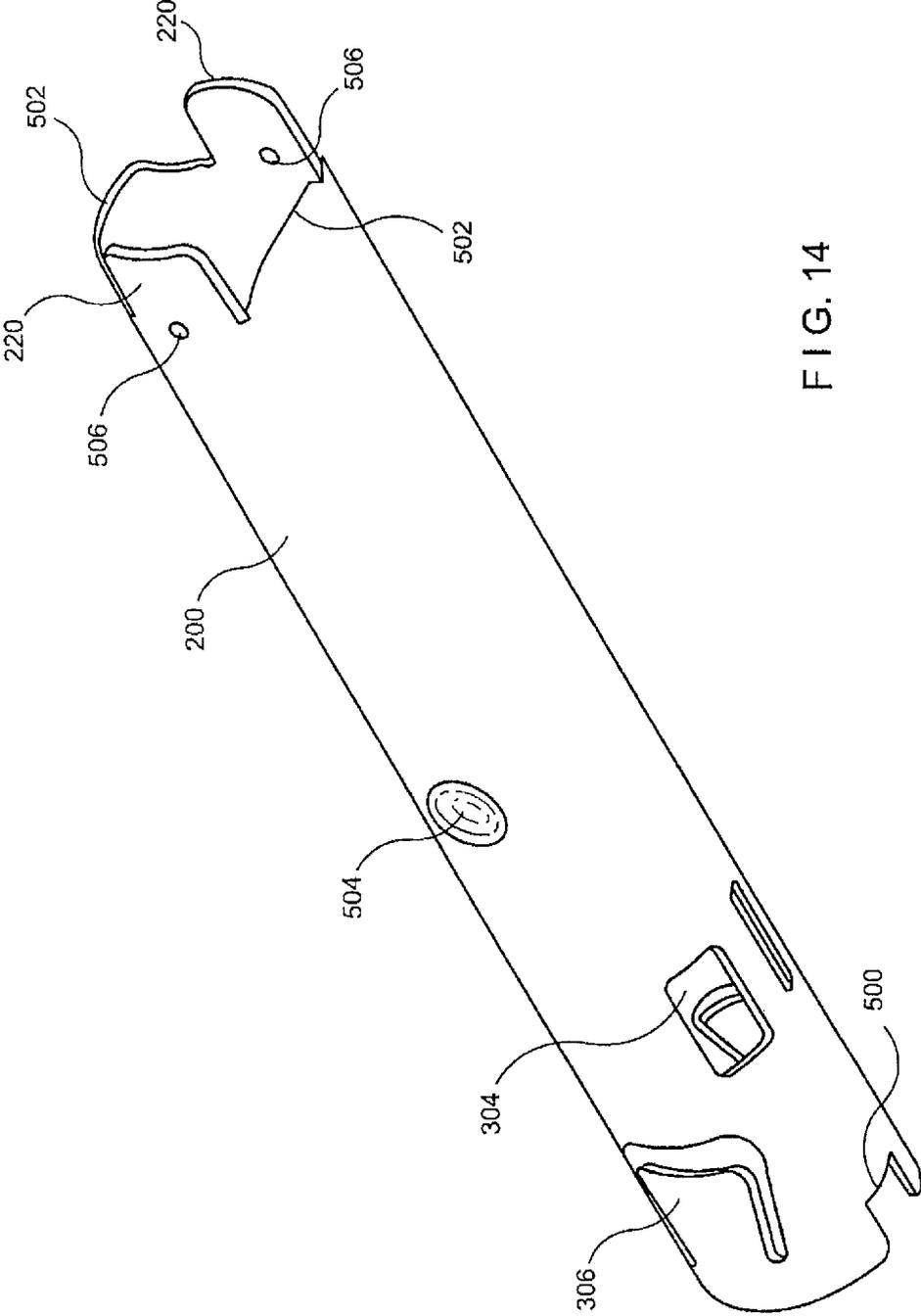


FIG. 14

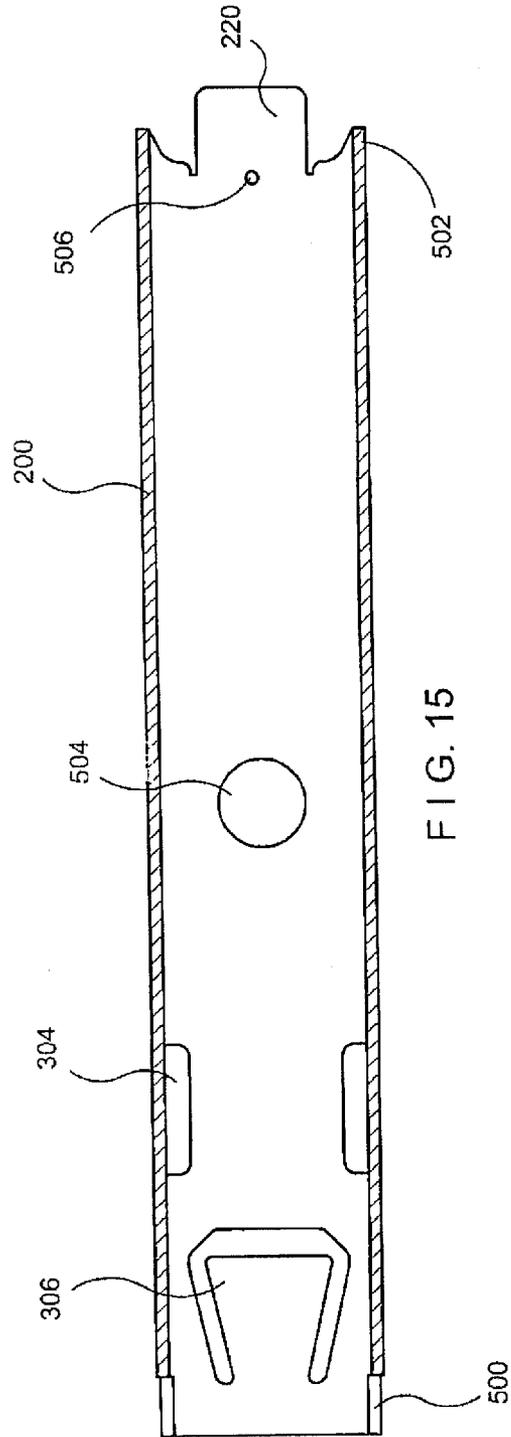


FIG. 15

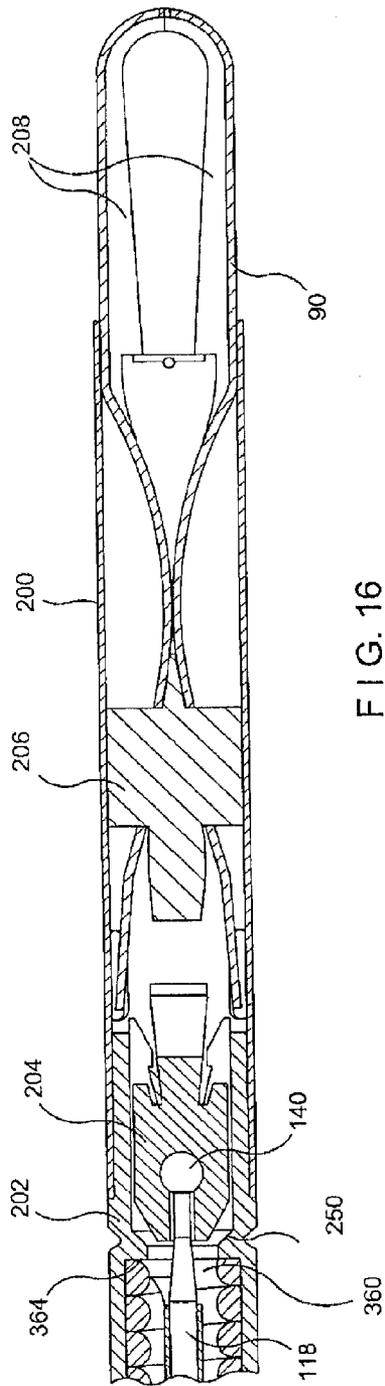


FIG. 16

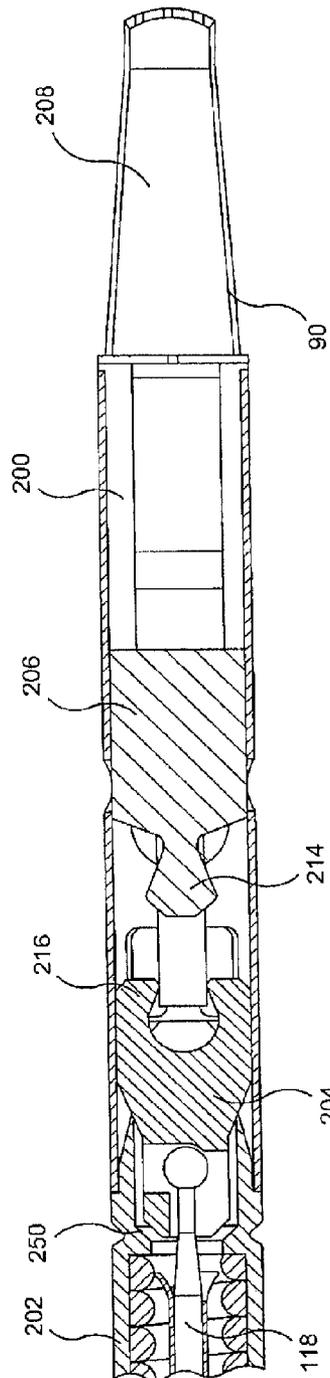


FIG. 17

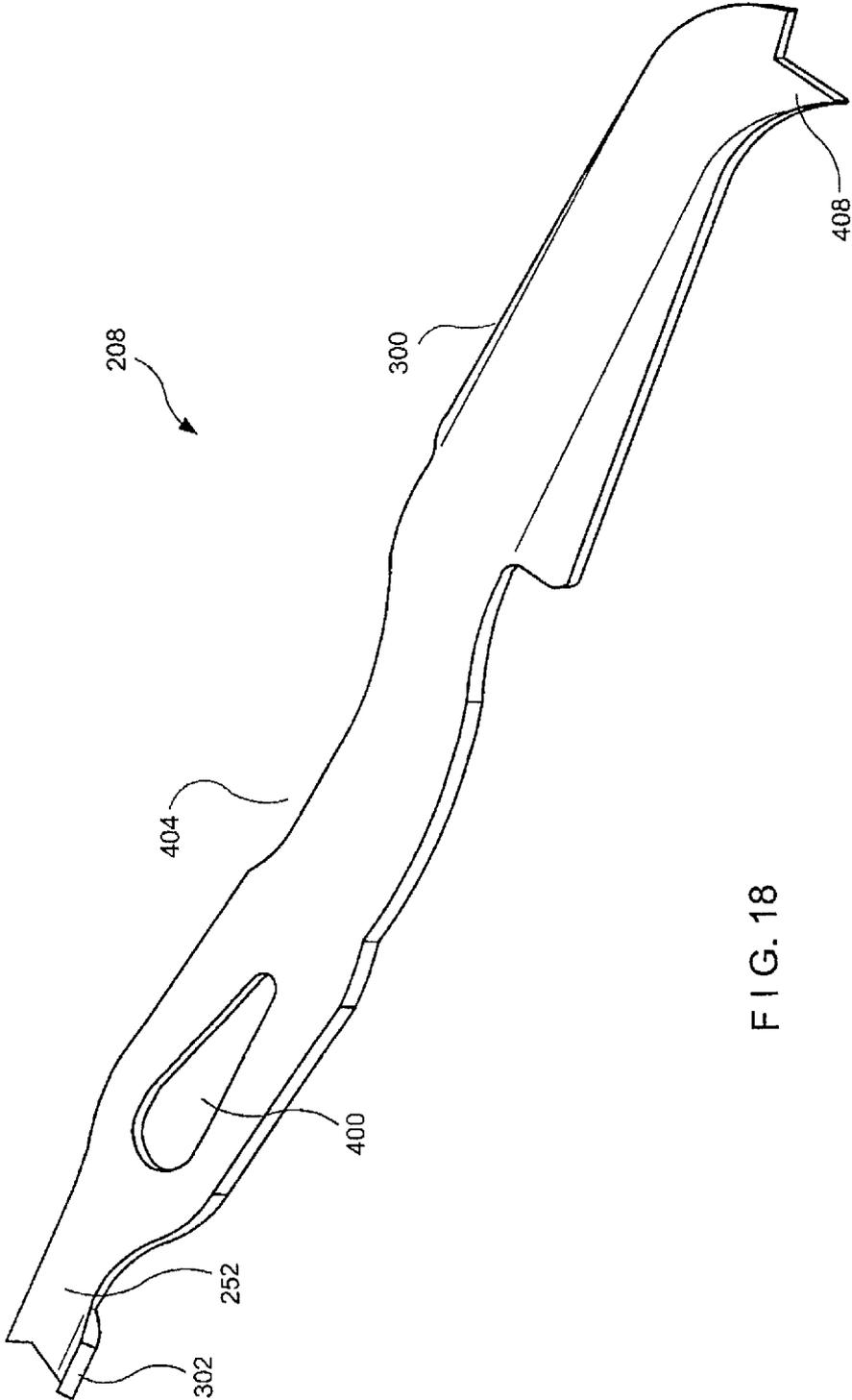
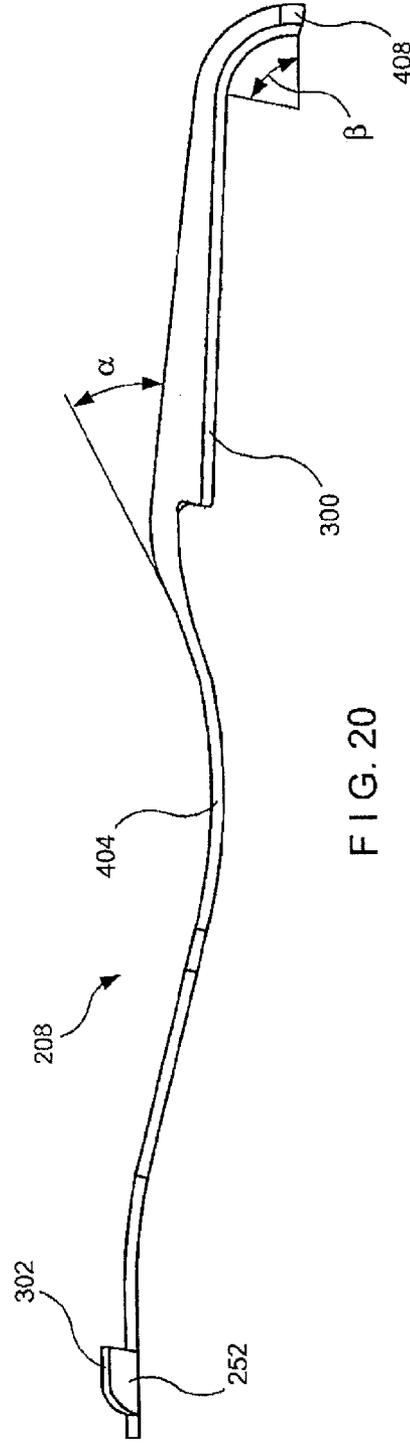
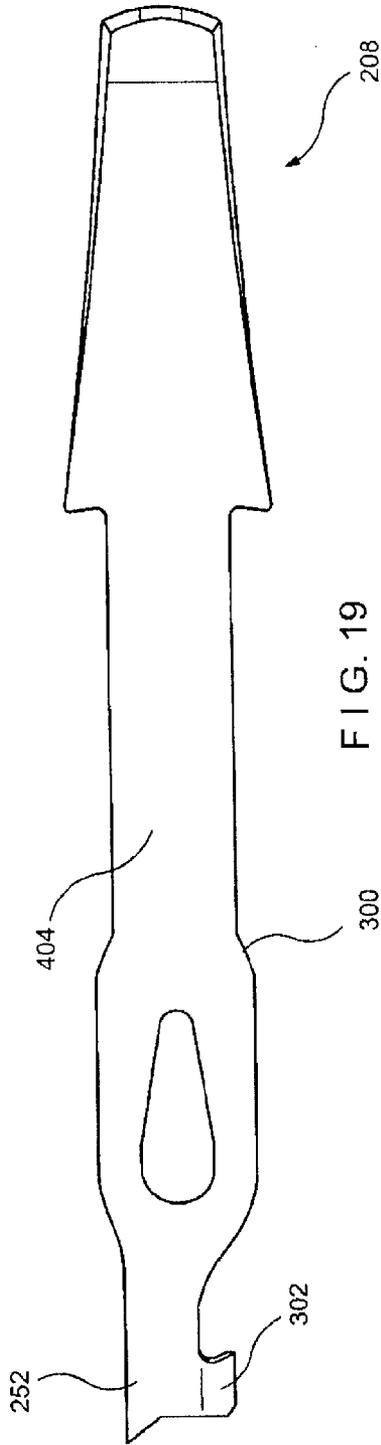


FIG. 18



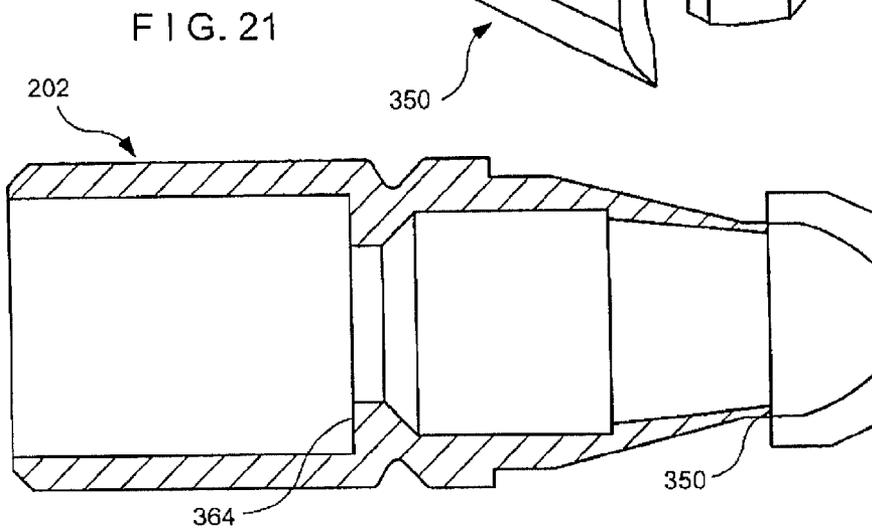
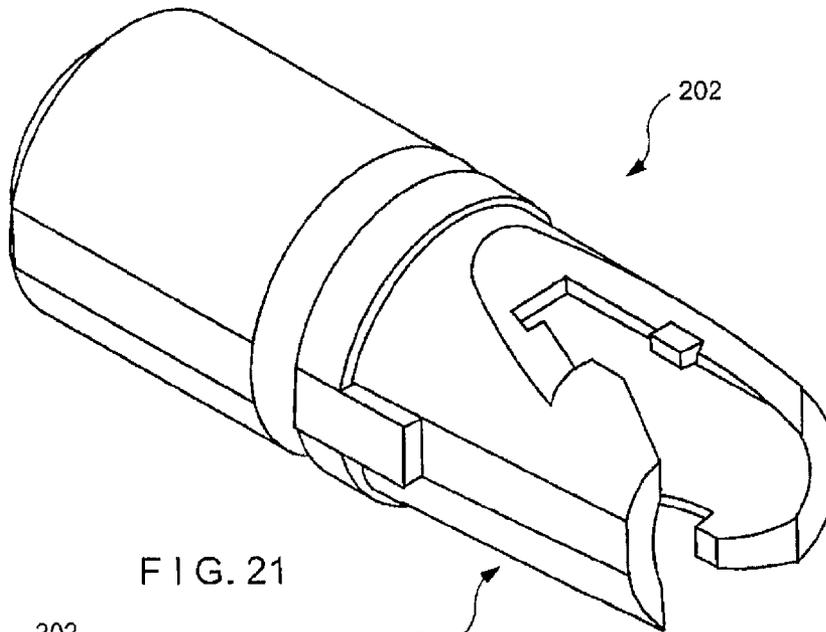


FIG. 22

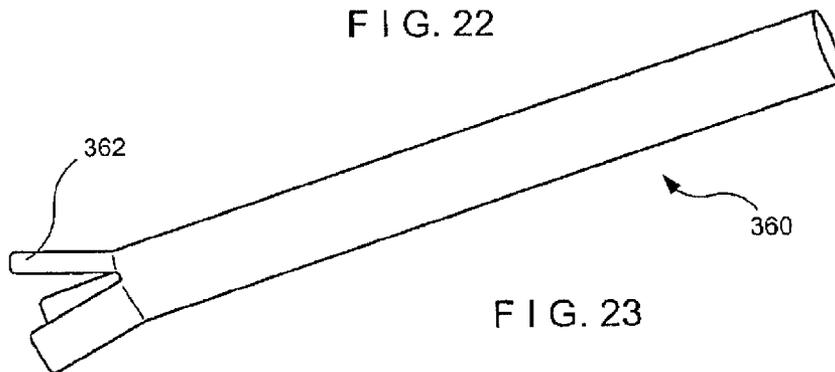


FIG. 23

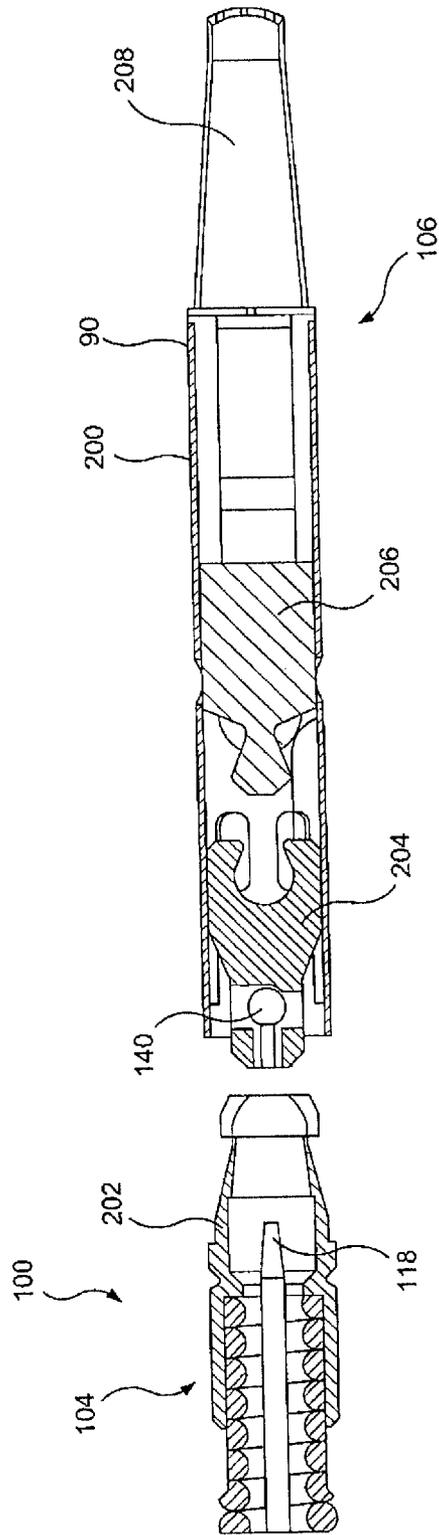


FIG. 24

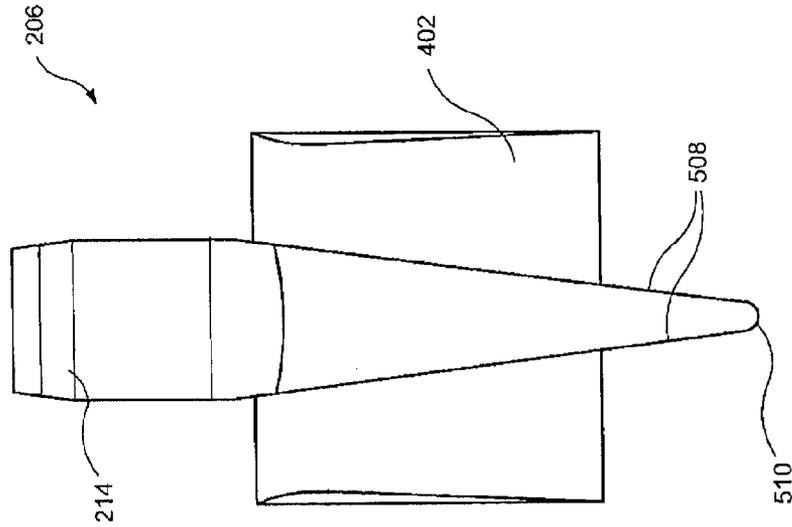


FIG. 26

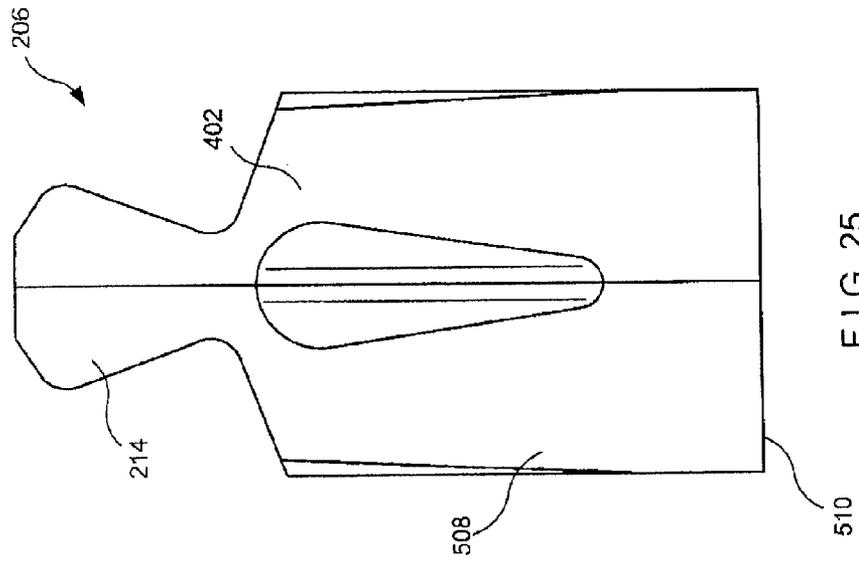


FIG. 25

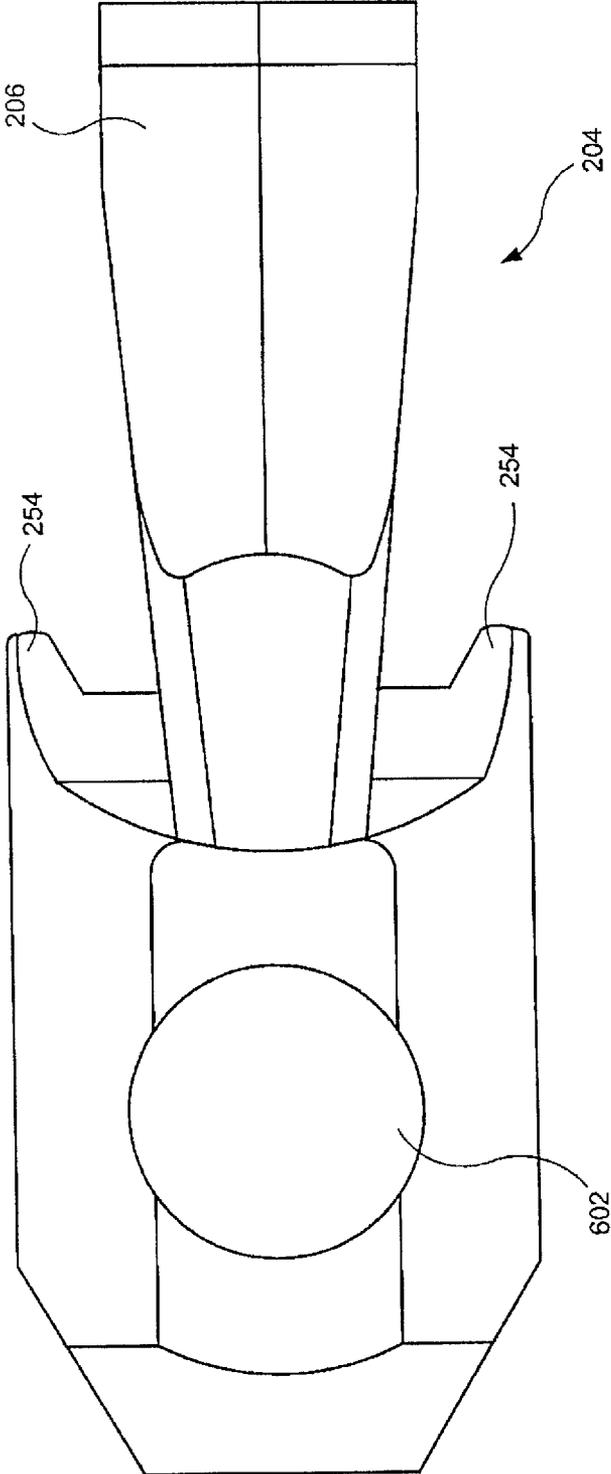


FIG. 27

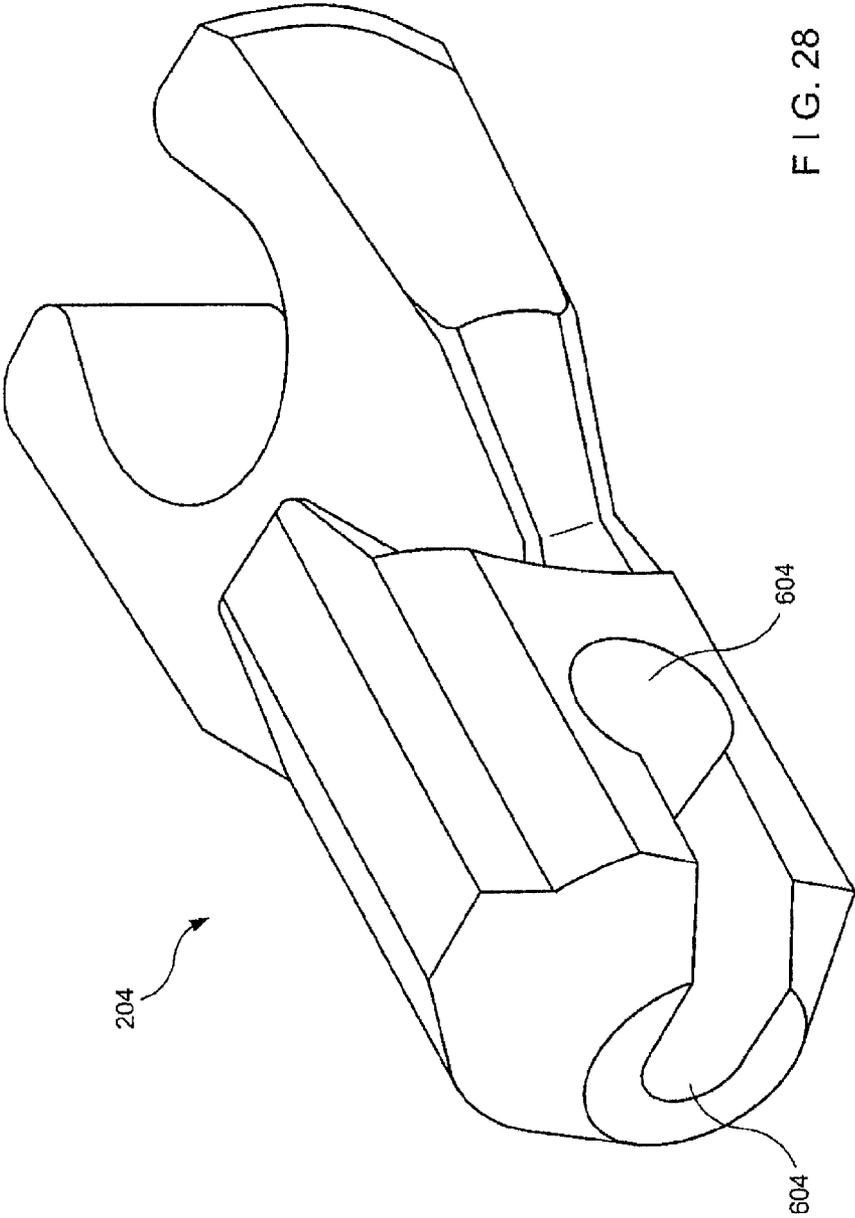


FIG. 28

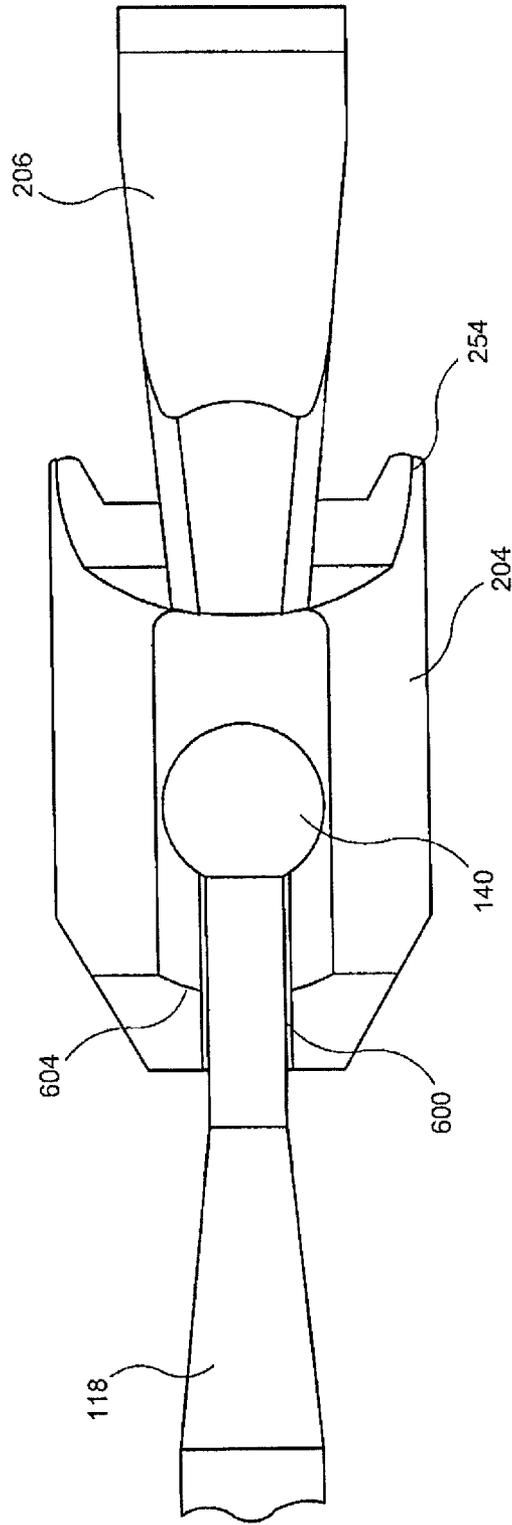


FIG. 29

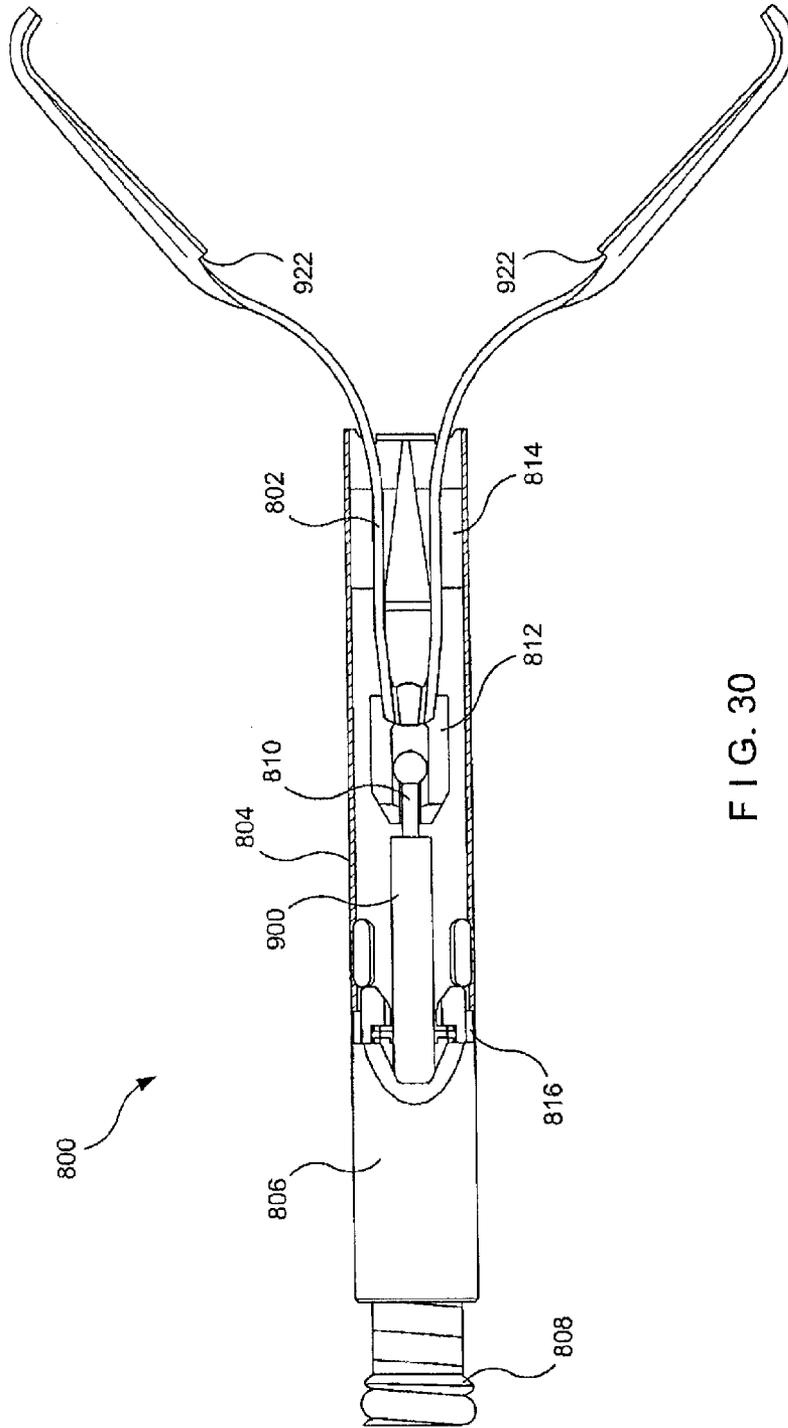


FIG. 30

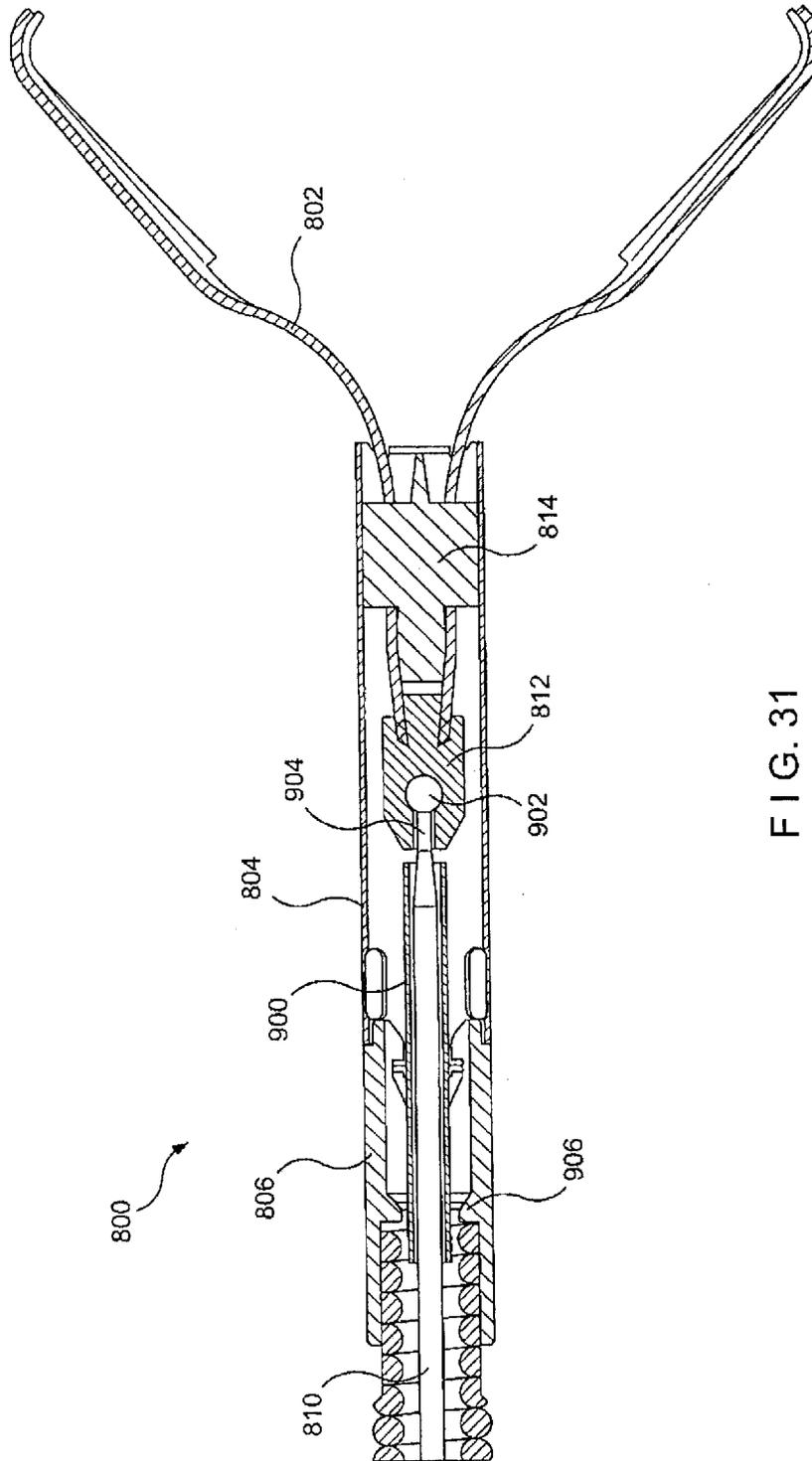


FIG. 31

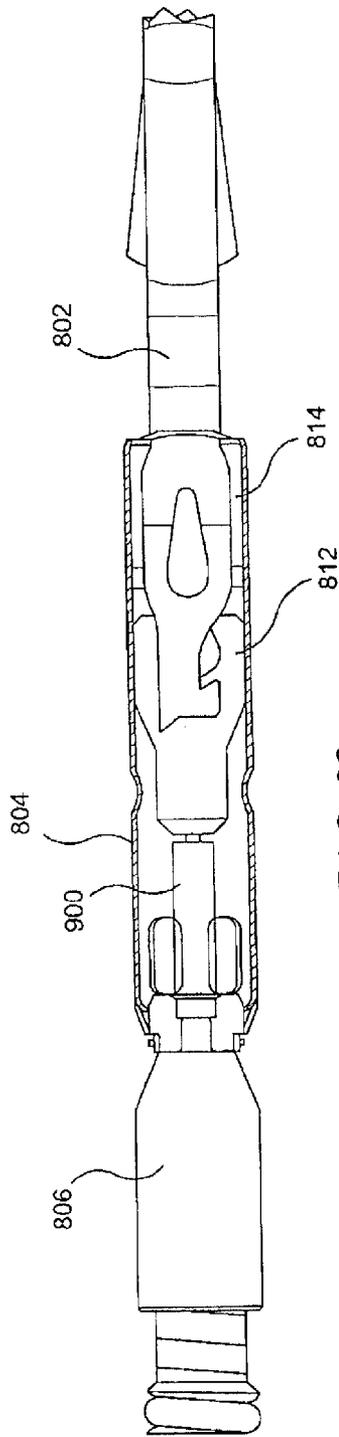


FIG. 32

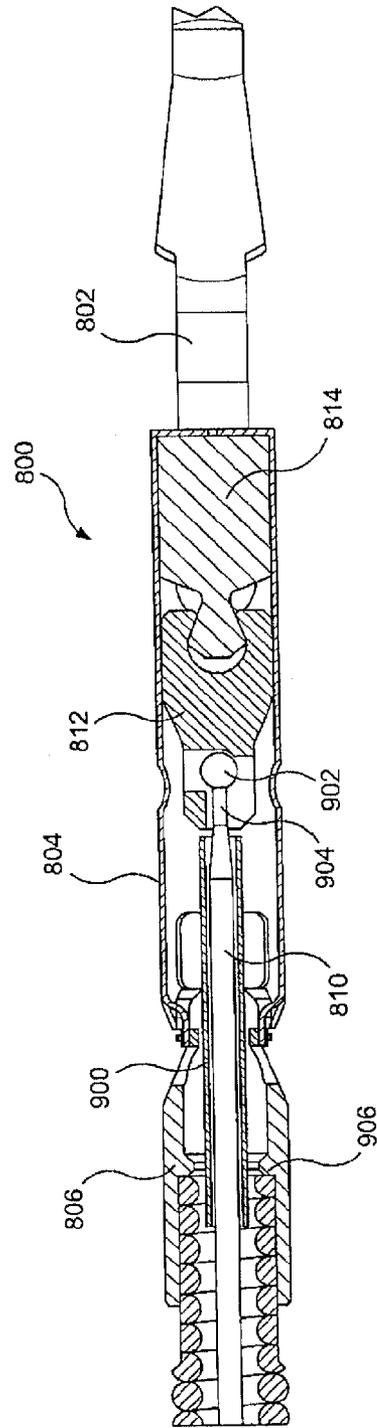
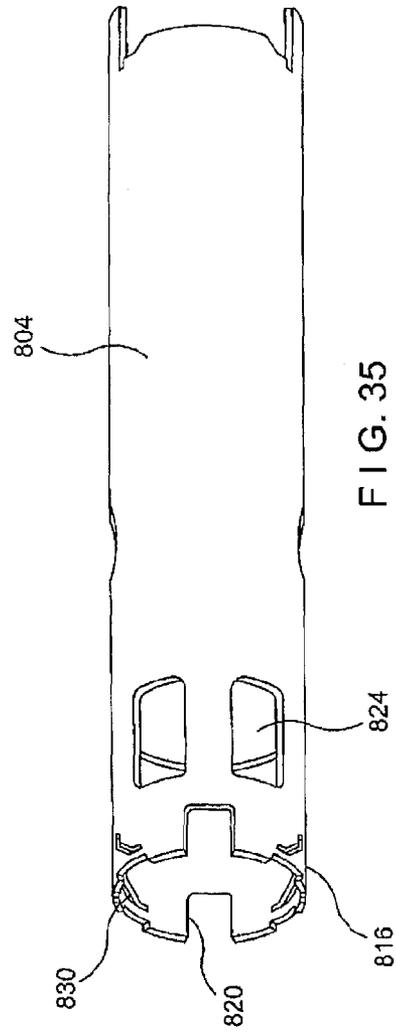
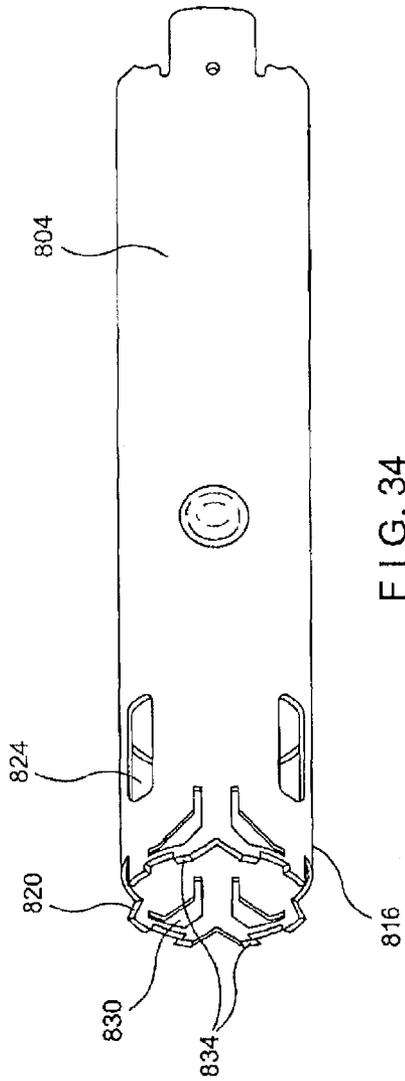
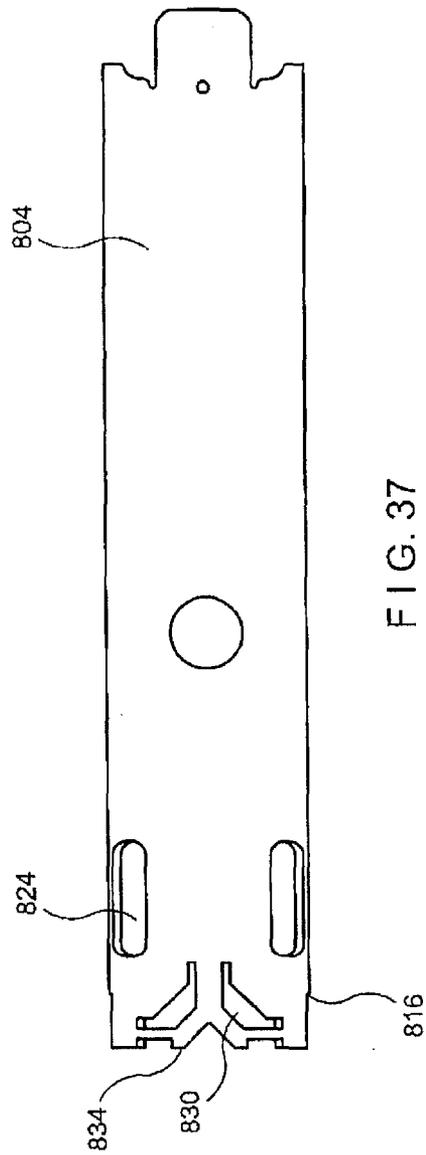
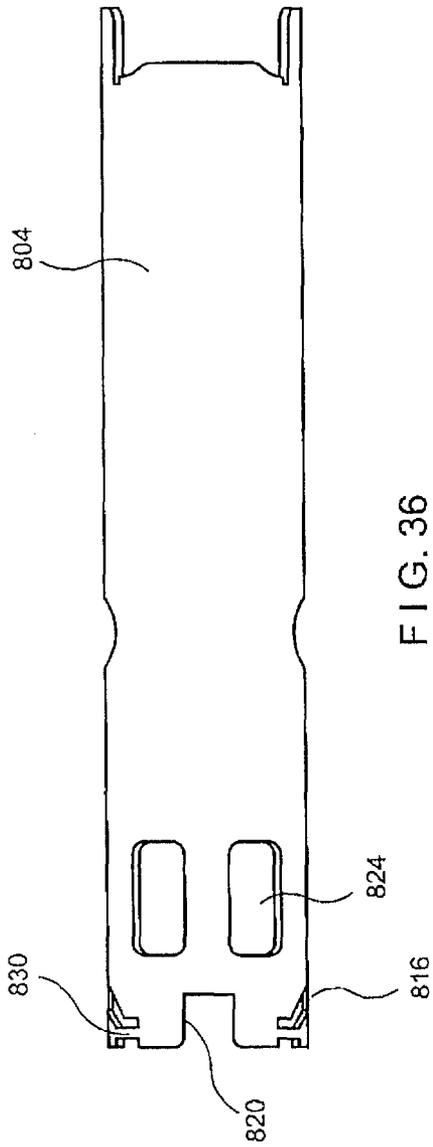


FIG. 33





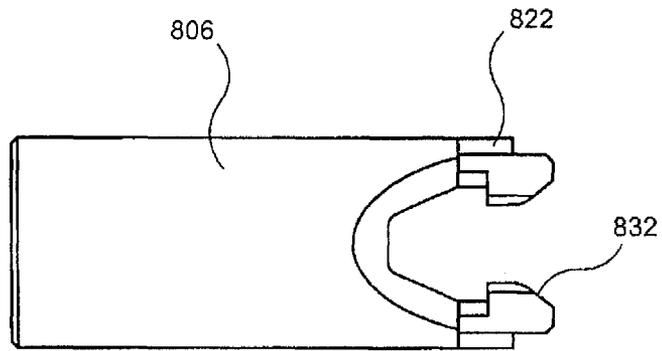


FIG. 38

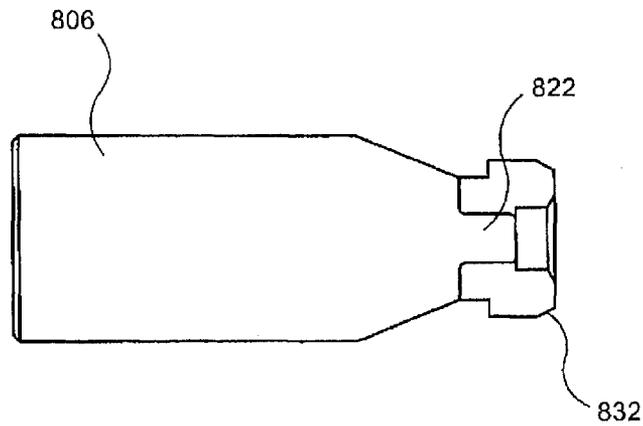


FIG. 39

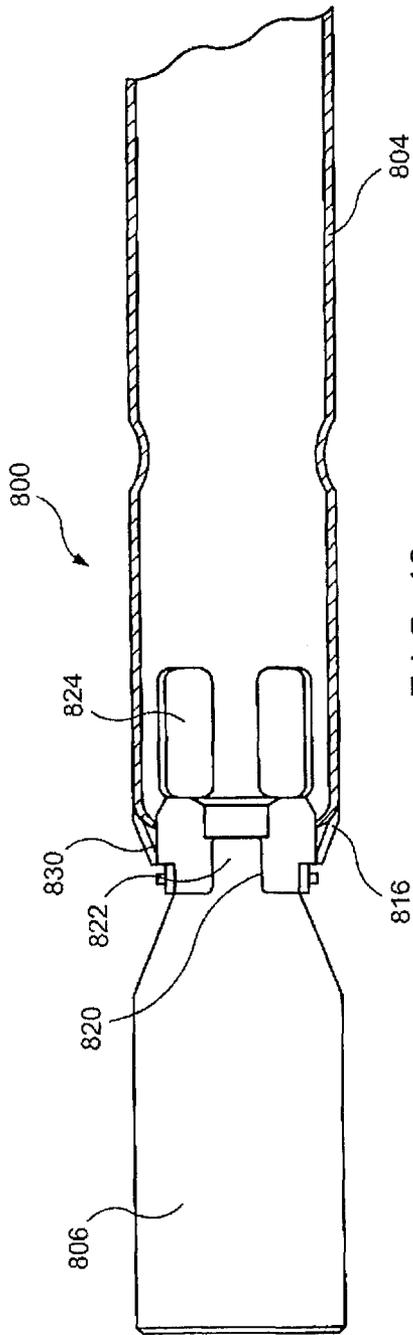


FIG. 40

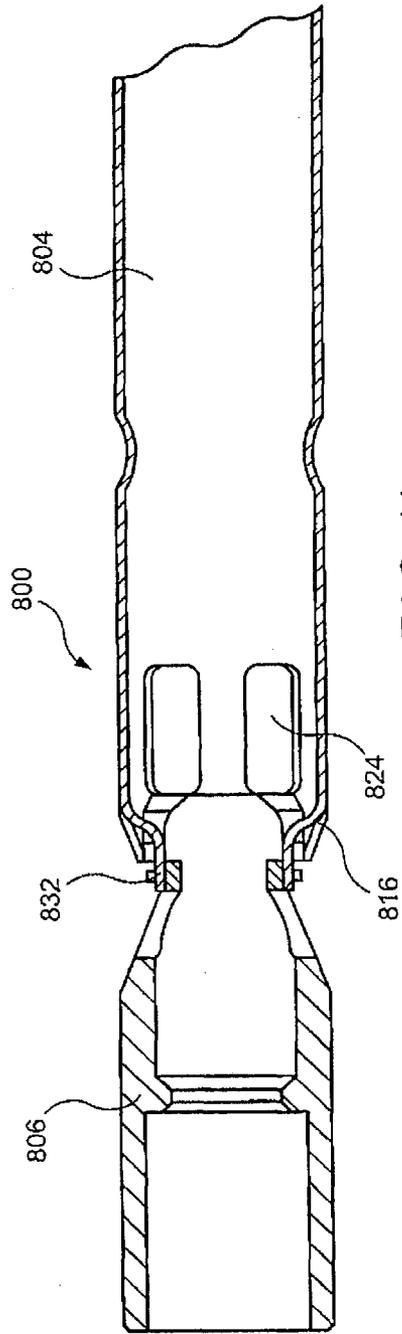


FIG. 41

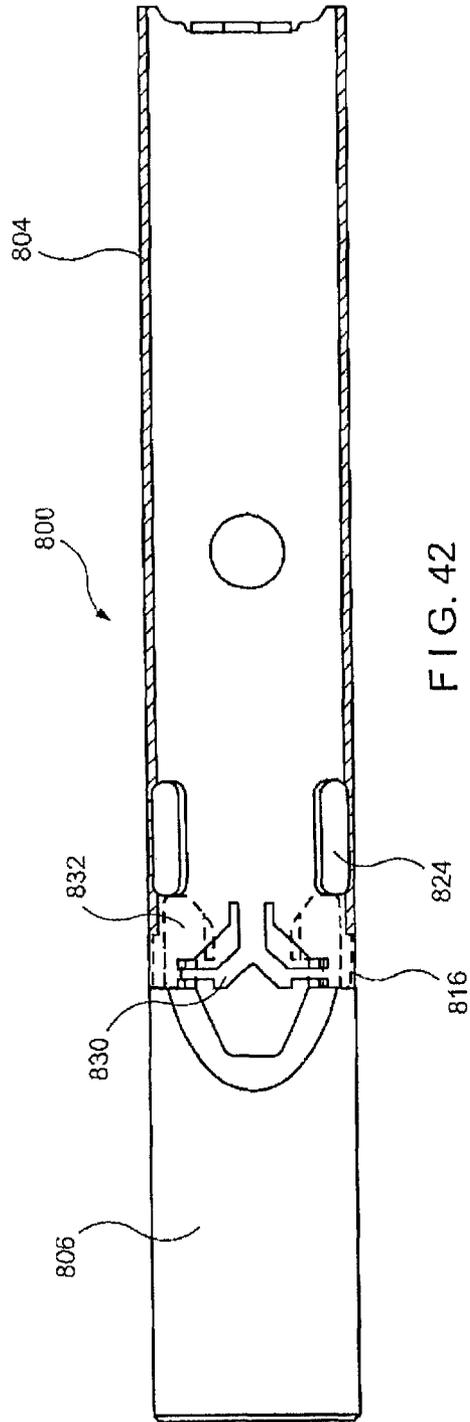


FIG. 42

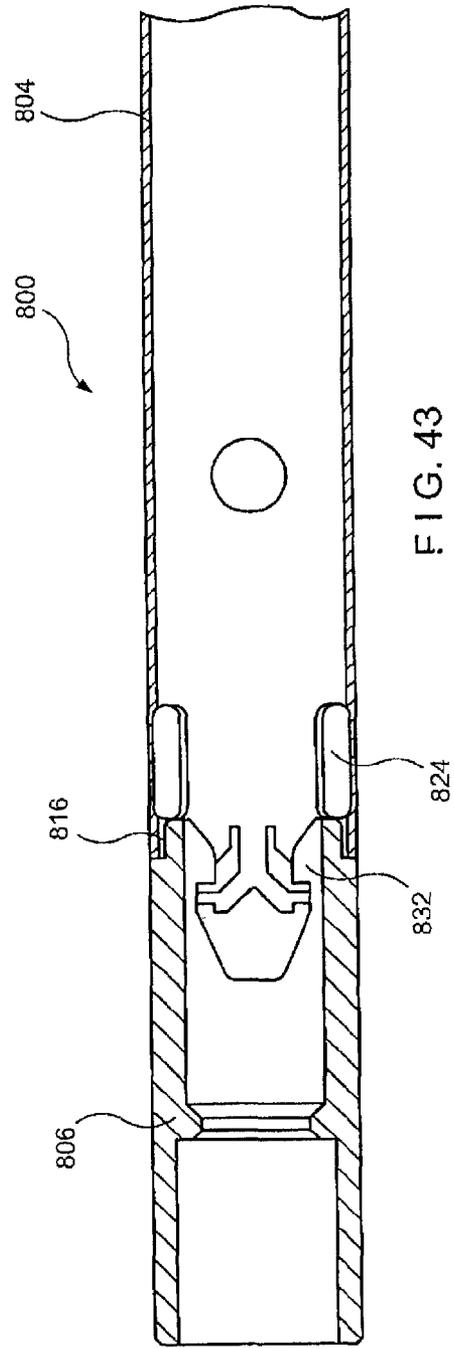


FIG. 43

THROUGH THE SCOPE TENSION MEMBER RELEASE CLIP

PRIORITY CLAIM

This Application is a Continuation-in-Part of U.S. patent application Ser. No. 10/647,512 filed on Sep. 30, 2004 entitled "Through the Scope Tension Member Release Clip." Priority is also claimed to U.S. Provisional Patent Application Ser. No. 60/568,418 filed on May 5, 2004 entitled "Through the Scope Tension Member Release Clip." The entire disclosures of these prior applications are considered as being part of the disclosure of the accompanying applications and are expressly incorporated by reference herein.

BACKGROUND

Endoscopic procedures to treat pathologies of the gastrointestinal ("GI") system, the biliary tree, the vascular system and of other body lumens are becoming increasingly common.

Hemostatic clipping tools have been inserted through endoscopes to deploy hemostatic clips which stop internal bleeding by clamping together the edges of a wound. Such a clipping tool, complete with clips attached to a distal end thereof, may be inserted through an endoscope to the location of bleeding. A clip is then remotely manipulated into position over the site of the bleeding, clamped over the wound and detached from the tool.

One challenge facing the endoscope operator is to properly position the hemostatic clips over the wound to effectively stop the bleeding. If a clip is deployed improperly, additional clips may be required to stop the bleeding, extending the time required for and the complexity of the procedure and leaving additional medical devices within the patient. It is also important for the device operator to be certain of the status of deployed clips during the deployment operation. For example, before withdrawing the tool from the endoscope, the operator should have positive indication that all of the deployed clips have been fully deployed and completely released from the tool to prevent a clip which is clamped on tissue yet cannot be released from the tool.

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

In one aspect, the present invention is directed to a hemostatic clip assembly for mounting on a delivery device comprising a capsule and a clip slidably mounted within the capsule so that, when the clip is drawn proximally into the capsule, arms of the clip are drawn together to a closed position, an abutting surface of at least one of the arms contacting a corresponding surface of the capsule when the clip is drawn to a predetermined position within the capsule to provide a first user feedback indicating closure of the clip in combination with a tension member connected to the clip arms and biasing the clip arms toward an open, tissue receiving configuration and a yoke slidably received within the capsule and releasably coupled to the tension member, the yoke including a ball cavity for receiving a ball connector of a control element of the delivery device to maintain the clip assembly coupled to the delivery device, wherein the control element is frangible to detach the yoke from the delivery device and to provide a second user feedback and, wherein release of the yoke from the tension member provides a third user feedback.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

FIG. 1 is a schematic side view of a clipping device according to an embodiment of the present invention;

FIG. 1A is a detail view of an exemplary clip assembly shown in FIG. 1;

FIG. 2 is a side view of the embodiment shown in FIG. 1, with an outer sheath;

5 FIG. 3 is a cut away side view of the shaft section according to an embodiment of the present invention;

FIG. 4 is a cross sectional view of the shaft section shown in FIG. 3;

10 FIG. 5 is a detail view of the distal end of the control wire according to an embodiment of the present invention;

FIG. 6 is a perspective view of an outer sheath according to an embodiment of the present invention;

FIG. 7 is a cross sectional exploded view of the handle of the outer sheath shown in FIG. 6;

15 FIG. 8 is a perspective view of an outer sheath lock according to an embodiment of the present invention;

FIG. 9 is a cross sectional side view of a distal end of a clipping device according to an embodiment of the present invention;

20 FIG. 10 is a cross sectional top view of a distal end of the clipping device shown in FIG. 9;

FIG. 11 is a cross-sectional, perspective view of the distal end of the clipping device shown in FIG. 9;

25 FIG. 12 is a top view of the distal end of a device according to an embodiment of the present invention with the clip arms extended therefrom;

FIG. 13 is a perspective view of the device shown in FIG. 12;

30 FIG. 14 is a perspective view of a capsule according to an embodiment of the present invention;

FIG. 15 is a cross sectional side view of the of the capsule shown in FIG. 14;

FIG. 16 is a top view of the distal end of a clipping device according to an embodiment of the present invention;

35 FIG. 17 is a side view of the distal end shown in FIG. 16;

FIG. 18 is a perspective view of a clip arm according to an embodiment of the present invention;

FIG. 19 is a side view of the clip arm shown in FIG. 18;

FIG. 20 is a top view of the clip arm shown in FIG. 18;

40 FIG. 21 is a perspective view of a bushing according to an embodiment of the present invention;

FIG. 22 is a cross sectional side view of the bushing shown in FIG. 21;

45 FIG. 23 is a perspective view of a wire stop according to an embodiment of the present invention;

FIG. 24 is a schematic side view of a clip assembly detached from a bushing, according to an embodiment of the present invention;

50 FIG. 25 is a side view of a tension member according to an embodiment of the present invention;

FIG. 26 is a top view of the tension member shown in FIG. 25;

FIG. 27 is a top view of a yoke according to an embodiment of the present invention;

55 FIG. 28 is a perspective view of the yoke shown in FIG. 27;

FIG. 29 is a top view of a yoke with a control wire according to an embodiment of the present invention;

FIG. 30 is a partially cross-sectional, side view of a different embodiment of the present invention;

60 FIG. 31 is a cross sectional view of the embodiment shown in FIG. 30;

FIG. 32 is a partially cross-sectional, top view of the embodiment shown in FIG. 30;

65 FIG. 33 is a cross-sectional view of the embodiment shown in FIG. 32;

FIG. 34 is a perspective view of a clip capsule according to a different embodiment of the invention;

FIG. 35 is another perspective view of the capsule shown in FIG. 34;

FIG. 36 is a side elevation view of the capsule shown in FIG. 34;

FIG. 37 is a top view of the capsule shown in FIG. 34;

FIG. 38 is a top view of a bushing according to a different embodiment of the invention;

FIG. 39 is a side view of the bushing shown in FIG. 38;

FIG. 40 is a partially cross-sectional top view of a bushing-capsule assembly according to a different embodiment of the invention;

FIG. 41 is a cross sectional area of the assembly shown in FIG. 40;

FIG. 42 is a partially cross-sectional side view of the assembly shown in FIG. 40; and

FIG. 43 is a cross sectional view of the assembly shown in FIG. 42.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION

Hemostatic clips are used routinely to stop bleeding from openings created during surgery as well as wounds resulting from other trauma to tissues. In the simplest form, these clips grasp the tissue surrounding a wound and bring the wound's edges together to allow natural processes to heal the wound. Endoscopic hemostatic clips are used to stop internal bleeding resulting from surgical procedures and/or tissue damage from disease, etc. Specialized endoscopic hemostatic clipping devices are used to bring the clips to the desired location within a patient's body and to position and deploy the clip at the appropriate place on the tissue. The clipping device is then withdrawn, leaving the clip within the patient.

Endoscopic hemostatic clipping devices are designed to reach affected tissues deep within a patient's body, such as within the GI tract, the pulmonary system, the vascular system or within other lumens and ducts. During the procedures to treat those areas, an endoscope is generally used to provide access to and visualization of the tissue which is to be treated. The clipping device may, for example, be introduced through a working lumen of the endoscope. The design and construction of such a "through the scope" endoscopic hemostatic clipping device presents several challenges. The endoscopic clipping device has to be sufficiently small to fit in the lumen of an endoscope and, at the same time, must be designed to provide for the positive placement and actuation of the hemostatic clip. Feedback to the operator is preferably also provided so that the operator will not be confused as to whether the hemostatic clip has been properly locked in place on the tissue and released from the device before the device itself is withdrawn through the endoscope.

FIG. 1 shows a side elevation view of a through the scope hemostatic clipping device according to an exemplary embodiment of the present invention. This device is a hand operated tool that is used to insert a hemostatic clip through an endoscope lumen, position the clip over a wound, clamp it and deploy it over the affected tissue. The tool is further designed to release the hemostatic clip once it has been clamped in place, and to be withdrawn through the endoscope. To more clearly explain the operation and construction of the exemplary device, it may be divided into three principal components. As shown, the hemostatic clipping device 100 comprises a handle assembly 102, a shaft section 104, and a clip assembly 106. The clip assembly 106 is shown more clearly in FIG. 1A.

The handle assembly 102 forms the component that supplies a mechanical actuation force to deploy and clamp the clip. In this embodiment, the device 100 is hand operated (i.e.,

the user's hands provide the force required to carry out all the functions related to the hemostatic clip). The handle assembly 102 may be constructed in a manner similar to conventional handle assemblies of the type generally employed in endoscopic biopsy devices or in similar applications. The handle assembly 102 allows the user to move a control wire 118 or other force transmission member, which extends through the shaft section 104 to the clip assembly 106 at a distal end of the device 100. The handle assembly 102 comprises a handle body 108 which can be grasped by the user to stabilize the device and apply a force to it. A sliding spool 110 is connected to control wire 118, so that the user can easily pull or push said wire 118 as desired.

As shown in FIGS. 1 and 2, a sliding spool 110 is mounted on the handle body 108 so that it can slide along a slot 116, which maintains its position within the handle assembly 102. Because the sliding spool 110 is connected to the control wire 118, the user may manipulate the control wire 118 by grasping the handle body 108 and moving the sliding spool 110 along the slot 116. A return spring 112 may be provided within the handle body 108 to bias the sliding spool 110, and thus the control wire 118 toward a desired position. In the present embodiment, the sliding spool 110 is biased to the proximal position. The handle assembly 102 may also include a connection portion 114, which receives the control wire 118 and attaches the shaft section 104 to the handle assembly 102.

The shaft section 104 mechanically connects the handle assembly 102 to the clip assembly 106 and, together with the clip assembly 106, is designed to be inserted into a lumen of an endoscope. As shown in FIGS. 3 and 4, the shaft section 104 comprises an outer flexible coil 130 which is designed to transmit a torque from the proximal end to the distal end of the device 100 and to provide structural strength to the shaft section 104. The coil 130 may be a conventional coil used in biopsy devices and may, for example, comprise a single, coiled wire. The coiled wire may have a round, square or a rectangular cross section, and may be made of a biocompatible material such as, for example, stainless steel. Additional protective and low friction outer layers may be included on the shaft section 104, according to known methods of construction.

The control wire 118 transmits mechanical force applied to the handle 102 to the clip assembly 106. The control wire 118 has a proximal end which is attached to a movable part of the handle 102, such as the sliding spool 110, using known methods. Stainless steel or other high yield biocompatible materials may be used to manufacture the control wire 118, so that the structural integrity of the assembly is maintained. It is also important to prevent stretching of the control wire 118 when under tension since, if the wire stretches, the handle 102 will have to travel a greater distance to carry out a desired operation. As shown in FIG. 5, the distal end of the control wire 118 ends in a ball 140 which is used to connect the control wire 118 to the appropriate elements of the clip assembly 106, as will be described below. In this embodiment, the diameter of the control wire 118 is substantially constant from a proximal end thereof to a proximal end of a distal tapered section 144. The ball 140 may have a diameter which is greater than the diameter of the control wire 118, to facilitate attachment to a yoke 204. The control wire 118 may extend the length of the device 100, from the yoke 204 to the sliding spool 110, and slides longitudinally through the device 100. It may be made, for example, of stainless steel or other biocompatible metal.

The control wire 118 may also include a reduced diameter section 142 designed to fail when a predetermined tension is applied thereto through the handle assembly 102. The tapered section 144 may be used to transition between the main body

of the control wire **118** and the reduced diameter section **142**, without steps or other discontinuities which may concentrate stress and make the fracture point more unpredictable. As will be described in greater detail below, one purpose of the reduced diameter section **142** is to facilitate the release of a hemostatic clip from the hemostatic clipping device **100** once the clip has been properly deployed. It will be apparent to those of skill in the art that the location of the reduced diameter section **142** along the control wire **118** may be varied to take into account specific requirements of the device **100**.

An inner sheath **132** may be used in the construction of the shaft section **104**, as shown in FIGS. **3** and **4**. The inner sheath **132** provides a low friction bearing surface disposed between the outer diameter of the control wire **118**, and the inner diameter of the shaft section **104**. The inner sheath **132** may be formed of a low friction material such as, for example, Teflon™, HDPE or Polypropylene. In one exemplary embodiment, the inner sheath **132** is slidable within the shaft section **104**, and the control wire **118** is slidable within the inner sheath **132** forming a low friction system of multiple bearing surfaces. To further reduce friction, a bio-compatible lubricant may be applied to the inner and outer surfaces of the inner sheath **132**, along the length of the shaft section **104**. For example, silicone lubricants may be used for this purpose.

A slidable over-sheath **150** may be included in the design of the shaft section **104**, as shown in FIGS. **1** and **2**. The over-sheath **150** is designed to protect the inner lumen of the endoscope from the metal clip assembly **106** and from the metal coil **130** while the hemostatic clipping device **100** passes through the endoscope's lumen. After the clipping device **100** and, more specifically, after the clip assembly **106** has passed through the endoscope, the over-sheath **150** may be withdrawn to expose the distal portion of the clipping device **100**. The over-sheath **150** may be formed, for example, as a single lumen plastic extrusion element slidable over the distal portions of the clipping device **100** to selectively cover and uncover the clip assembly **106**. In one embodiment, the over-sheath **150** is formed of a low friction polymer such as, for example, Teflon™, HDPE, Polypropylene, or similar materials.

The over-sheath **150** may include a grip portion **152** and an elongated body **154**. The grip portion **152** is designed as a handle making it easier for the user to slide the over-sheath **150** over the shaft of the clipping device **100**. In one exemplary embodiment, the grip portion **152** is made of a rubber-like material to provide a good gripping surface for the user. For example, an injection moldable polymer such as TPE may be used to construct the grip portion **152**. The elongated body **154** may be formed as a substantially cylindrical shell surrounding the shaft of the clipping device **100**. The elongated body **154** may be attached to the grip portion **152** using conventional methods as would be understood by those skilled in the art.

As shown in FIGS. **6** and **7**, an exemplary grip portion **152** comprises a central hollow channel **160** that may be used to receive the shaft of the clipping device **100**. The central hollow channel **160** is aligned with the elongated body **154** to provide a continuous channel containing the shaft of the clipping device **100**. The material of the grip portion **152** may have a high coefficient of friction, so that an interference fit is possible between the central hollow channel **160** and the shaft of the clipping device **100** without the use of adhesives or mechanical fastening devices. In one embodiment, friction bosses **158** may be provided on an inner diameter of the hollow channel **160** to provide additional friction between the shaft of the clipping device **100** and the over-sheath **150** assembly. The friction bosses **158** may be formed, for

example, as protrusions extending from the inner diameter of the over-sheath **150** and may have a variety of stubby or elongated shapes. The amount of friction between these two components may be balanced so that no unwanted relative movement takes place while, at the same time, making it relatively easy for the user to slide the over-sheath **150** proximally and distally when necessary.

A sheath stop **156** may be provided for the clipping device **100** to prevent the over-sheath **150** from sliding away from the distal end while the clipping device **100** is inserted in the endoscope. As shown in the exemplary embodiment of FIGS. **2** and **8**, the sheath stop **156** physically blocks the grip portion **152** from sliding proximally to prevent the over-sheath **150** from being withdrawn and exposing the clip assembly **106**. The sheath stop **156** is designed to easily snap in place near the proximal end of the shaft section **104** where it can be reached and manipulated by the operator during the surgical procedure. Once the clip assembly **106** has been inserted in the endoscope and has reached the desired location in the patient's body, the sheath stop **156** may be removed from the shaft section **104** so that the user can move the grip portion **152** proximally to uncover the clip assembly **106**.

The connection between the sheath stop **156** and the shaft section **104** may include, for example, pairs of opposing fingers **162**, **164** that are designed to snap over the shaft section **104**. The fingers **162**, **164** cooperate to securely and releasably hold the body of the shaft section **104** therebetween. The fingers **162**, **164** respectively comprise guide portions **170**, **172**; shaft channel portions **166**, **168**; and blocking portions **174**, **176**. Insertion of the sheath stop **156** on the elongated body **154** is accomplished by pressing the body of the shaft section **104** between the guide portions **170**, **172**, to spread the fingers **162**, **164** and allow further insertion of the shaft **104** between the fingers **162**, **164**. The guide portions **170**, **172** and the blocking portions **174**, **176** are shaped so that insertion of the shaft section **104** towards the channel portions **166**, **168** requires less effort than moving the shaft section **104** in the opposite direction.

Once the shaft section **104** has been placed within the channel portions **166**, **168**, the fingers **162**, **164** snap back to their non-spread position and retain the shaft section **104** in place therebetween. The shaft section **104** is removed by pulling the sheath stop **156** away from the shaft section **104**. Due to the shape of the blocking portions **174**, **176**, removing the shaft section **104** requires the application of more force than does insertion thereinto. Stops **180** may also be provided on the sheath stop **156** to limit the movement of the shaft section **104** towards the grasping portion **161** to prevent damage to the device that may be caused by excessive spreading of the fingers **162**, **164**. The sheath stop **156** may be formed of a resilient material, such as a polymer, and may be manufactured by injection molding.

The clip assembly **106** is disposed at the distal end of the clipping device **100**, and contains the mechanism that converts the proximal and distal movement of the control wire **118** into the actions necessary to deploy and release a hemostatic clip **90**. FIGS. **9**, **10** and **11** show, respectively, side, top and perspective views of the distal end of the clipping device **100**, including the clip assembly **106** having clips in the folded configuration. This configuration is used, for example, to ship the clipping device **100** and to insert the clipping device **100** through the lumen of an endoscope. Some of the components of the clip assembly **106** include a capsule **200** which provides a structural shell for the clip assembly **106**, the clip arms **208** which move between open and closed

positions, a bushing **202** attached to the coil **130**, and a yoke **204** connecting the control wire ball **140** and the tension member **206**.

As depicted in the exemplary embodiment, the proximal end of the capsule **200** slides over the distal end of the bushing **202**. A locking arrangement between these two exemplary components is provided by capsule tabs **212**, which are designed to lock into the bushing **202** so that mechanical integrity is temporarily maintained between the capsule **200** and the bushing **202**. Within the capsule **200** are contained a yoke **204** and a tension member **206** which transmit forces applied by the control wire **118** to the clip arms **208**. The ball **140** formed at the distal end of the control wire **118** is mated to a receiving socket **210** formed at the proximal end of the yoke **204**. A male C-section **214** extending from the tension member **206** is received in a corresponding female C-section **216** formed in the yoke **204**, so that the two components are releasably connected to one another, as will be described below. The clip arms **208** in the closed configuration have a radius section **300** which is partially contained within the capsule **200** to prevent opening of the arms. Each of the clip arms **208** goes over the tension member **206** and has a proximal end **252** which slips under a yoke overhang **254**, to further control movement of the arms **208**.

FIGS. **12** and **13** show a top and a perspective view of one exemplary embodiment of the clip assembly **106** in an open configuration, with the clip arms **208** in a fully open position. The open configuration is obtained when the sliding spool **110** shown in FIG. **1** is moved distally so that the ball **140** of the control wire **118** pushes the assembly containing the yoke **204** and the tension member **206** distally within the capsule **200**. As will be described below, the distal ends of the clip arms **208** are biased toward the open position and revert to this position whenever they are not constrained by the capsule **200**. In the exemplary embodiment, a maximum opening of the clip arms **208** occurs when the clip arms **208** ride over the folded distal folding tabs **220** which extend from the distal end of the capsule **200**, as shown in FIGS. **14** and **15**. In this embodiment, the tabs **220** provide a cam surface, and the clip arms **208** act as cam followers, being deflected by the tabs **220**. In addition, the folding tabs **220** may also provide a distal stop for the tension member **206**, to retain it within the capsule **200**. Thus, by moving the sliding spool **110** distally, the user opens the clip arms **208** to prepare to grasp tissue therebetween.

When the sliding spool **110** is moved proximally by the user, the assembly within the capsule **200** also moves proximally and the clip arms **208** are withdrawn within the capsule **200**. As the clip arms **208** move proximally within the capsule **200**, clip stop shoulders (CSS) **222** contact a distal portion of the capsule **200**, for example, the folded tabs **220**. This interaction of the CSS **222** with the capsule **200** provides to the user a first tactile feedback in the form of increased resistance to movement of the sliding spool **110**. This feedback gives to the operator a positive indication that further movement of the handle control will cause the hemostatic clip **90** to be deployed from the clip assembly **106**. The operator may then decide whether the current position of the clip **90** is acceptable or not. If the position is acceptable, the operator can fully deploy the clip **90** by continuing to move the sliding spool **110** with increased proximal pressure to separate the yoke **204** from the tension member **206**. If not, the operator can move the sliding spool **110** distally to re-open the clip arms **208** and extend them out of the capsule **200**, reposition the clip **90**, and repeat the above steps to close the clip **90** at a more appropriate location.

When the user determines that the clipping device **100** is positioned correctly, the proximal pressure on the sliding spool **110** may be increased to continue deployment of the hemostatic clip **90** from the clip assembly **106**. FIGS. **16** and **17** show respectively a top and side view of the clipping device **100** in this condition. As the proximal tension on sliding spool **110** is increased, the control cable **118** pulls the yoke **204** proximally, away from the tension member **206**. The tension member **206** is firmly attached to the clip arms **208** which are prevented from moving proximally by the interaction of the CSS **222** with the folded tabs **220**. If sufficient pulling force is applied to the yoke **204**, the male C section **214** of the tension member **206** yields and loses integrity with the female C section **216** of the yoke **204**. This can occur because, in the exemplary embodiment, the tension member **206** is formed of a material with a lower yield strength than the material of the yoke **204**.

The force required to break the tension member **206** away from the yoke **204** may be tailored to achieve a desired feedback that can be perceived by the user. The minimum force required to break the tension member **206** free of the yoke **204** may be selected so that a tactile feedback is felt by the user, to prevent premature deployment of the hemostatic clip **90** while a maximum force may be selected so that other components of the linkage between the sliding spool **110** and the clip arms **208** do not fail before the male C section **214** and the female C section **216** disconnect from one another. In one exemplary embodiment, the tension force necessary to disconnect the two components may be in the range of approximately 4 lbf to about 12 lbf. This range may vary depending on the size of the device and the specific application. To obtain this force at the interface of the male and female C sections **214**, **216** a larger force will be applied by the user at the sliding spool **110**, since friction within the device may cause losses along the long flexible shaft.

When the male C section **214** of tension member **206** yields, several events take place within the exemplary device **100** nearly simultaneously. More specifically, the yoke **204** is no longer constrained from moving proximally by the CSS **222** abutting the capsule **200**. Thus the yoke **204** travels proximally until coming to rest against a distal bushing shoulder **250**. The tension member **206** is not affected by this movement since it is no longer connected to the yoke **204**. The proximal ends **252** of the clip arms **208** are normally biased away from a center line of the device **100** and are no longer constrained by the yoke overhangs **254**. Accordingly, the clip latches **302** are free to engage the latch windows **304** of the capsule **200**, thus maintaining the integrity of the capsule-clip arms combination after deployment. Details of one exemplary embodiment of the capsule **200** are shown in FIGS. **14**, **15** and details of the clip arms **208** are shown in FIGS. **18**, **19** and **20**.

As the yoke **204** moves proximally to abut against the bushing **202**, the capsule tabs **306** are bent away from the centerline of the capsule **200** by the cam surfaces of the yoke **204**. As a result, the capsule tabs **306** no longer engage the corresponding bushing undercuts **350**, shown in the side and perspective views of the bushing **202** depicted in FIGS. **21**, **22**. Since the capsule **200** and the bushing **202** (which is securely connected to shaft section **104**) are no longer connected, the clip assembly **106** is prevented from being released from the shaft section **104** only by its connection to the ball **140** of the control wire **118**. As will be described in greater detail below, in different exemplary embodiments of the capsule, the capsule tabs **306** may be replaced by different structures.

A further result of moving the yoke **204** against the distal bushing shoulder **250** of the bushing **202** is that the distal end of the wire stop **360** (shown in FIGS. **12**, **16**) is placed near the proximal bushing shoulder **364** (shown in FIG. **22**). The flared fingers **362** located at the distal end of the wire stop **360**, better shown in FIG. **23**, are compressed as they pass through the central ID of the bushing **202**, but return to their normally biased open position (shown in FIG. **23**) after passing past the proximal bushing shoulder **364**. Further distal movement of the sliding spool **110** is thus prevented since that movement would engage the fingers **362** of the wire stop **360** with the proximal bushing shoulder **364**. This feature prevents the clip assembly **106** from being pushed away from the bushing **202** before the ball **140** is separated from the control wire **118**, as will be described below.

The wire stop **360** comprises a tube with a first slotted and flared end attached to the control wire **118** by conventional means. As shown in FIG. **23**, the slots impart flexibility to the device so it can easily pass through the central lumen of the bushing **202**. Flared fingers **362** are formed by the slots, and engage the proximal bushing shoulder **364**. The wire stop **360** is made of a material that is biocompatible and that has enough resilience so that the fingers **362** re-open after passage through the bushing **202**. For example, stainless steel may be used for this application. In different exemplary embodiments that will be described in greater detail below, the wire stop **360** may be omitted from the device.

One feature of the exemplary embodiment of the invention described above is that the user receives both tactile and auditory feedback as the clip assembly **106** is deployed and released. The separation of the tension member **206** from the yoke **204** produces a small clicking noise and a tactile feel that is perceptible while holding the handle assembly **102**. The change in axial position of the sliding spool **110** is thus augmented by the changes in resistance to its movement and by the clicking sound and feel through the start and stop of the movement. As a result the user is always aware of the status of the clip assembly **106**, and the inadvertent deployment of a hemostatic clip **90** in an incorrect location is made less likely. It will be apparent to those of skill in the art that the order of male and female connectors in the device may be reversed or changed without affecting the operation of the device.

It may be beneficial for the user to be certain that the clip assembly **106** has been deployed before the rest of the clipping device **100** is removed from the endoscope. Injury to the tissue being treated could result if the clipping device **100** is removed from the operative site when the hemostatic clip **90** is only partially deployed. Accordingly, a large tactile feedback may be incorporated, to augment the auditory and tactile feedback stemming from the separation of the yoke **204** from the tension member **206**, FIG. **24** depicts the condition where the clip assembly **106** separates from the rest of the clipping device **100**. According to the described embodiment, this second user feedback is obtained by designing the control wire **118** so that it will separate from the end ball **140** when a predetermined tension is applied to it. In other words, the ball **140** of the control wire **118** is mechanically programmed to yield and separate from the body of the control wire **118** when a pre-set tension is applied thereto. The size of the reduced diameter section **142** can be selected so that, when the user continues to move the sliding spool **110** proximally as the programmed yield tension is reached, the ball **140** detaches from the tapered section **144** and provides a large tactile feedback to the operator.

When the ball **140** detaches, the sliding spool **110** bottoms out at the proximal end of the handle **108**, such that a full stroke of the handle assembly **102** is reached. The tension

required to cause the reduced diameter section **142** to yield and release the ball **140** may vary over a range of values. However, for best results the force should be greater than the tension force required for the male C section member **214** to separate from the yoke **204**. If this condition is not satisfied, a situation may occur where the clip assembly **106** is locked in place on the patient's tissue, but cannot be released from the clipping device **100**. It will be apparent that this situation should be avoided. In one exemplary embodiment, the tension force required to separate the ball **140** from the body of the control wire **118** is in the range of between about 10 lbf and 20 lbf at the distal end of the control wire **118**. As discussed above, losses along the elongated flexible shaft may require the user to apply a force substantially greater than this to the handle body **102**.

Once the ball **140** has separated from the rest of the control wire **118**, the user can pull the rest of the clipping device **100** from the endoscope. As this is done, the yoke **204** is retained within the capsule **200** by the spring and frictional forces of various features of the capsule **200**, such as, for example, the capsule tabs **306**. Prior to withdrawing the clipping device **100**, the over-sheath **150** may be moved distally by the user over the entire remaining portions of the shaft section **104** to prevent damage to the endoscope as the clipping device **100** is withdrawn therethrough. The sheath stop **156** may also be placed on the shaft section **104** proximally of the over-sheath grip **152** to prevent inadvertent sliding of the over-sheath **150** from the distal end of the device **100**.

A more detailed description of several components of the clipping device **100** follows. The clip arms **208** are shown in detail in FIGS. **18**, **19** and **20**; the tension member **206** is shown in side and top views in FIGS. **25**, **26**; while top and side views of the yoke **204** are shown respectively in FIGS. **27** and **28**, the clip arms **208** may be formed of a biocompatible material such as Nitinol, Titanium or stainless steel. Maximum spring properties may be obtained by using materials such as 400 series stainless or 17-7 PH. As shown, a tear drop keyway **400** is formed in the clip arm **208** to mate with a corresponding tear drop key **402** formed on the tension member **206**. This feature maintains the relative positions of these two components and of the yoke **204** substantially constant. The shape of the keyways **400** may be varied. For example, the keyway **400** may be oval or elliptical. Central portions of the clip arms **208** define a spring section **404**. When the proximal ends **252** of the clip arms **208** are under the yoke **204** overhangs **254**, the clip arms **208** are allowed to pivot over the tension member **206**, which in turn biases the distal ends **252** towards the open configuration when no longer restrained by the capsule **200**. As a result, the proximal end **252** of each clip arm **208** springs upward and engages the latch windows **304** in the capsule **200**.

The clip arms **208** also comprise a radius section **300** that adds strength to the clip and reduces system friction. The radius of the radius section **300** approximately matches the inner diameter of the capsule **200** and has a smooth profile to avoid scratching the inner surface of the capsule **200**. A pre-load angle α is defined between the radius section **300** and the spring section **404**. The pre-load angle α determines how much interference (pre-load) exists between the two opposing clip arms **208** at their distal ends when closed. The greater the pre-load angle α , the greater the engaging force that is applied by the clip arms **208**. However, this condition also causes the greatest system friction when the hemostatic clip **90** is closed. The clip arms **208** also comprise interlocking teeth **408** disposed at their distal ends. In the exemplary embodiment, the teeth **408** are identical so that the arms may be interchangeable and will mesh smoothly with the set fac-

ing them. The teeth **408** are disposed at a nose angle β which may be between approximately 90 and 135 degrees, but in other applications may be greater or lesser than the described range.

One exemplary embodiment of the capsule **200** is shown in detail in FIGS. **14** and **15**. The device comprises alignment keyways **500** that are designed to mate with corresponding features on the bushing **202** to rotationally align the two components. In this exemplary embodiment, the capsule tabs **306** may be bent towards the centerline of the capsule **200** to engage the bushing undercuts **350**. The engagement maintains the integrity between the capsule assembly **200** and the rest of the clipping device **100** until the yoke **204** is pulled into the distal bushing shoulder, the capsule overhangs **502** provide added clamping strength to the deployed clip arms **208**. This is achieved by reducing the length of the portion of each clip arm **208** that is not supported by a portion of the capsule **200**. This feature does not affect the amount of tissue that may be captured by the clip arms **208** since the capsule overhangs **502** extend on a plane substantially parallel to the plane of the clip arms **208**.

Additional features of the capsule **200** include an assembly aid port which may be used to assist in aligning the components of the clip assembly **106**. Bending aids **506** facilitate a smooth bend when the distal folding tabs **220** are bent inward, as described above. The bending aids **506**, as shown, are holes aligned with the folding line of the tabs **220**, but may also include a crease, a linear indentation, or other type of stress concentrator. The capsule **200** may be formed from any of a variety of biocompatible materials. For example, stainless steel, Titanium or Nitinol or any combination thereof may be used. High strength polymers like PEEKTM or UltemTM may also be used to form the capsule **200**, with a heat set treatment being used to adjust positionable elements.

A different exemplary embodiment of the present invention is shown in FIGS. **30-33**. In this embodiment, several features of the clip capsule and of the control wire actuation mechanism are modified to further facilitate the release of the clips from the delivery mechanism. As indicated above, it is important to ensure that the clip completely separates from the control wire after deployment to prevent a situation where the clip is clamped to the patient's tissue, but cannot be released from the deployment mechanism. Accordingly, the exemplary embodiment shown in FIGS. **30-33** incorporates design features which reduce mechanical side loads between the clip capsule and the bushing, and facilitate a smoother and more certain disengagement of the clip.

More specifically, the present exemplary embodiment incorporates an interface portion **816** of the clip capsule **804** that is axially shorter than this portion in the above-described embodiments. For example, the interface portion **816** may up to 60% shorter in this embodiment than in the above-described embodiments. The interface portion **816** is adapted to releasably connect with the bushing **806** to temporarily provide structural strength to the assembly. The exemplary embodiment also incorporates a different distal end of the control wire **810**, which can be used to help separate the clip **802** and capsule **804** from the bushing **806**.

FIGS. **34-37** show in greater detail the capsule **804** according to the exemplary embodiment also shown in FIGS. **30-33**. FIGS. **38** and **39** show the corresponding bushing **806**, which is adapted to cooperate with the capsule **804** to provide a smoother separation of the clip **802** from the delivery mechanism. Several features of the present exemplary capsule **804** are similar to features of the embodiments described above and carry out the same functions. For example, the key ways **820** are designed to cooperate with features **822** of the bush-

ing **806** to rotationally align the two components. The latch windows **824** also perform the same function as described above with respect to other embodiments and cooperate with proximal ends of the clips **802**.

One feature of the present embodiment is a shortened interface portion **816** which comprises a different releasable locking mechanism to connect the capsule **804** to the bushing **806**. In this embodiment, an "A" frame tab **830** is designed to cooperate with bushing hooks **832** to temporarily maintain the capsule **804** and the bushing **806** attached to one another. FIGS. **40-43** show additional views of the capsule **804** while it is connected to the bushing **806**. During assembly of the delivery device, the two components are attached by moving the capsule **804** over the bushing **806** and then bending the "A" frame tabs **830** into the bushing hooks **832**. The inside distal edge **834** of each "A" frame tab **830** is pushed down when joining the two components and locks behind the bushing hooks **832**.

As a clip **802** is deployed to clamp tissue and is then released from the deployment device **800**, the "A" frame tabs **830** disengage from the hooks **832** of the bushing **806** after the tension member **814** has been broken and the cam surfaces of the yoke engage the "A" frame tabs **830** as described above. The release sequence is accomplished through movement of the internal components within the capsule **804** in response to movement of the sliding spool **110** and the handle **108** (FIG. **2**), as described above with reference to the previous exemplary embodiments of the device.

A second feature included in this embodiment of the clip delivery device **800** comprises a control wire **810** and a hypo tube **900**, as shown in FIGS. **30-33**. In the present exemplary embodiment, no wire stop is included and the control wire **810** may be used to push the clip **802** away from the clip delivery device **800** after deployment of the clip **802** therefrom. This additional function of the control wire **810** may be utilized after the control wire ball **902** has separated from the control wire **810**, for example by programmed failure of the reduced diameter section **904**. Using the control wire **810** to push the deployed clip **802** provides additional assurance that, when the clip **802** is clamped to the patient's tissue, it will be completely released from the clip delivery device **800**.

According to the exemplary embodiment shown herein, after failure of the tension member **814** and before the control wire **810** is severed, if a user pushes the control wire **810** distally in an attempt to re-open the clip **802**, the clip **802** will remain coupled to the tissue while bound to the control wire **810**. At this point, due to the shorter longitudinal length of the clip capsule **804**, the yoke **812** may be drawn out of the proximal end of the capsule **804** by proximal movement of the control wire **810**. The bushing **806** may then be moved distally as the yoke **812** is drawn proximally to draw the proximal tapered end of the yoke **812** into the distal opening in the bushing **806**. The proximal tapered end of the yoke **812** allows the yoke **812** to be realigned with the bushing **806** as the yoke may have rotated about the control wire ball **902**. After the yoke **812** has been re-aligned with the bushing **806**, the control wire **810** may be drawn further proximally to separate the control wire ball **902** from the proximal portion of the control wire **810** to completely release the clip **802**.

One mode of operation of the exemplary embodiment of the clip release device **800** is described with reference to FIGS. **30-33**, and also referring back to FIGS. **1** and **2**. After the reduced diameter section **904** has yielded and the control wire **810** has been separated from the control wire ball **902**, the sliding spool **110** is advanced distally by the user relative to the handle **108** so that the distal (separated) end of the control wire **810** pushes the clip **802** distally away from the

clip delivery device **800**, providing a further assurance that the clip **802** has completely separated from the delivery device **800**. The user may then safely remove the delivery device **800**.

After the reduced diameter section **904** has yielded, the distal end of the control wire **810** may be jagged or sharp. To limit the possibility of injury from the sharp end of the control wire **810**, a protective shroud, e.g., the hypo tube **900**, is placed around the distal portion of the control wire **810**. For example, the hypo tube **900** may be crimped onto the control wire **810**, causing both to move together longitudinally in and out of the catheter. It will be apparent to those of skill in the art that other methods of attaching the hypo tube **900** to the control wire **810** may be used without departing from the scope of the invention. The hypo tube **900** placed around the sharp end of control wire **810** acts as a blunt surface to minimize trauma to tissue against which the control wire **810** may be pushed. In addition, the hypo tube **90** stiffens the reduced diameter section of the control wire **810** to aid the reduced diameter section in resisting buckling when subjected to compression as the control wire **810** is moved distally.

In the present exemplary embodiment, the control wire **810** is free to move longitudinally along the clip delivery device **800**. Accordingly, various internal passages of the delivery device **800** are sized to prevent interference with the movement of the control wire **810**. For example, an inner diameter of the bushing shoulders **906** may be such that the hypo tube **900** can pass therethrough without catching the lip of the bushing shoulders **906**. This feature further facilitates longitudinal movement of the control wire **810** and its use to push deployed clips **802** longitudinally away from the deployment device **800**.

The exemplary embodiment of the clip delivery device **800** described above thus promotes a more positive and smooth separation of the clip **802** after it has clamped on the target tissue and before the delivery device **800** is withdrawn from the patient's body. A clip capsule **804** having a shorter longitudinal length and "A" frame locking tabs may promote a smoother separation of the capsule **804** from the bushing **806**, by reducing the side loads that may exist during deployment and using the control wire **810** to push the clip **802** out of delivery device after clamping to the target tissue provides a further assurance of positive release.

FIGS. **25** and **26** depict additional details of the tension member **206**. As shown, tear drop keys **402** are designed to engage the tear drop keyways **400** of the clip arms **208**, as described above. Clip follower planes **508** are shaped to form a fulcrum which allows the clip arms **208** to rock between the open and closed configurations. The tension member **206** comprises a distal stop face **510** which abuts the distal folding tabs **220** of the capsule **200** to stop the distal motion of the capsule assembly **106**. In general, all surfaces and edges of the tension member **206** that are in contact with the inner surfaces of the capsule **200** preferably have a radius substantially similar to an inner radius of the capsule **200** to provide a sliding fit therein. The tension member **206** may be formed of a biocompatible polymer, monomer or thermoset. The type of mechanism selected to release the tension member **206** from the yoke **204** may determine the type of material used since a release due to fracture of the male C section **214** requires a relatively brittle material while release due to yielding without fracture calls for a softer material.

Additional details of the yoke **204** are shown in FIGS. **27-29**. When the control wire **118** is seated in the yoke **204**, it is desirable to ensure that it cannot inadvertently be removed from the control wire slot **600**. Accordingly, in the present

embodiment the ball cavity **602** has a diameter sufficiently large to allow the ball **140** to pass therethrough while the wire cavity **604** is large enough to allow the control wire **118** to pass therethrough, but not large enough to allow the ball **140** to pass therethrough. To assemble the control wire **118** with the yoke **204** according to the exemplary embodiment, the proximal end of wire **140** is inserted into the ball cavity **602** until the ball bottoms out, and then the control wire **118** is rotated until it is seated in the control wire cavity **604**, thus constraining further movement of the ball **140**. According to the present embodiment, the yoke **204** may be made of a biocompatible metal such as stainless steel or a high strength polymer such as Ultem™.

According to embodiments of the present invention, the clipping device **100** may be scaled to fit the requirements of different surgical procedures. In one exemplary embodiment, the clipping device **100** may be sized to fit through an endoscope having a working channel diameter of approximately 0.110 inches. The exemplary bushing may have a length of about 0.22 inches and an OD of approximately 0.085 inches. The capsule may have a length of about 0.5 inches, an OD of about 0.085 inches, and a wall thickness of about 0.003 inches. When assembled, the rigid length of the capsule **200** and the bushing **202** is approximately 0.625 inches. This length is important because if it is too great, the assembly will not pass through the bends of the flexible endoscope. In the exemplary clipping device, the outer sheath may have an ID of approximately 0.088 inches and an OD of about 0.102 inches. The overall length of the clipping device may be approximately 160 inches, while the tissue grasping portion of the clip arms **208** may be approximately 0.4 inches long.

Several aspects of the present invention are described below. In one aspect, the present invention is directed to an apparatus for deployment of a hemostatic clip comprising a handle assembly, a shaft connected to a distal portion of the handle assembly, a clip assembly releasably coupled to a distal portion of the shaft, the clip assembly including clip arms and a capsule cooperating with the clip arms to provide a first user feedback indicating a decision configuration of the clip assembly, and a control wire including a ball connector, the control wire extending from the handle assembly and coupled to the clip assembly by the ball connector to maintain the clip assembly coupled to the shaft, wherein the ball connector is detachable from the clip assembly to provide a second user feedback indicating separation of the clip assembly from the shaft.

The apparatus further includes an over sheath movable between a first position covering the shaft and the clip assembly and a second position uncovering the clip assembly. The over sheath has an over sheath stop engageable on the shaft to prevent movement of the over sheath to the second position.

The clip arms further comprise stop shoulders engaging a distal end of the capsule to provide the first user feedback during proximal movement of the control wire. The decision configuration indicates a position of the control wire beyond which further proximal movement of the control wire precludes return of the clip arms to an open configuration by a reversed movement of the control wire.

The capsule of the apparatus for deployment of a hemostatic clip further comprises a yoke including a ball cavity and being slidable within the capsule, the yoke receiving the ball connector in the ball cavity, and a tension member releasably connected to the yoke, the tension member being connected to the clip arms and biasing the clip arms toward an open configuration, wherein the tension member releases from the yoke when the control wire is moved proximally beyond the position at which the first user feedback is provided. The

tension member and the yoke are releasably connected to one another by a male C section member and a female C section member. Separation of the yoke and tension member occurs by one of fracture and deformation of the male C section member.

In the apparatus for deployment of a hemostatic clip, separation of the yoke and tension member occurs when a tension on the control wire tension is at least a predetermined separation tension. For example, the separation tension is at least approximately 4 lbf, or alternatively may be less than approximately 12 lbf. The separation of the yoke and tension member locks the clip arms in a closed configuration by sliding the tension member and the clip arms proximally within the capsule. Separation of the yoke and tension member also allows proximal movement of the yoke to release the capsule from a bushing of the shaft. Distal movement of the control wire, before separation of the yoke from the tension member, slides the clip arms distally out of the capsule into an open configuration.

In the apparatus for deployment of a hemostatic clip, the first feedback includes a tactile and aural feedback. The control wire further comprises a reduced diameter section adjacent to the ball connector, the reduced diameter section yielding when a tension in the control wire reaches a predetermined yield tension. The yield tension is greater than the separation tension, and may be between approximately 10 lbf and 20 lbf.

In another aspect, the invention is directed to a clip deployment apparatus insertable to locations within a body through an endoscope. The apparatus includes an elongated member extending from a proximal end to a distal end, a control wire extending from the proximal end of the elongated member to the distal end thereof, a bushing coupled to the distal end of the elongated member, and a capsule releasably connected to the bushing. The apparatus further includes clip arms slidable within the capsule between a distal open configuration and a proximal closed configuration, a tension member slidable with the clip arms, the tension member biasing the clip arms toward the open configuration, and a yoke slidable within the capsule, a first end of the yoke being releasably connected to the tension member and a second end of the yoke being connected to the control wire, wherein distal movement of the control wire slides the clip arms into the open configuration, and proximal movement of the control wire slides the clip arms into the closed configuration.

In the apparatus described above each of the clip arms comprises a radius section and wherein the capsule comprises a plurality of overhangs cooperating with the radius sections to retain the clip arms in the closed configuration when the clip arms are moved proximally within the capsule. Each of the clip arms also comprises stop shoulders and wherein the capsule comprises a plurality of distal folding tabs cooperating with the stop shoulders to provide a first user feedback indicative of proximal movement of the clip arms through a selected position in the capsule. The first user feedback includes an aural component and a tactile component.

The proximal movement of the control wire beyond a point at which the clip arms are in the selected position results in separation of the yoke from the tension member. The separation of the yoke from the tension member precludes returning the clip arms to the open configuration and allows further proximal movement of the yoke to release the capsule from the bushing.

The apparatus described further comprises a ball and socket connection between the yoke and the control wire. That ball and socket connection includes a ball detachably coupled to a body of the control wire when a tension on the

control wire is at least a predetermined separation tension, the ball providing a second user feedback when separated from the body of the control wire.

In yet another aspect, the invention is directed to a method for hemostatic clipping comprising inserting a shaft of a clipping device through a working lumen of an endoscope, wherein the shaft extends to a distal clipping assembly of the clipping device including a plurality of clip arms and wherein a control wire extends through the shaft from the clipping assembly to a handle coupled to a proximal end of the shaft. The method also comprises manipulating the handle assembly to move a control wire within the shaft to move the clip arms between an open and a closed configuration, generating a first user feedback indicating a decision configuration of the apparatus, and generating a second user feedback indicating separation of the clipping assembly from the shaft.

The method according to the present invention further comprises covering the shaft and the clipping assembly with an outer sheath and sliding the outer sheath proximally to uncover the clipping assembly. The clipping assembly further comprises a capsule slidably containing a yoke and a tension member biasing the clip arms toward the open configuration, the yoke being coupled to the control wire and being detachably coupled to the tension member.

The step of giving the first user feedback comprises providing a resistance force ending proximal movement of the clip arms and increasing a resistance to a corresponding movement of the handle assembly. Also included is separating the yoke from the tension member when a tension applied to the control wire after generation of the first user feedback is at least a first pre-selected tension. The second user feedback is generated when a reduced diameter portion of the control wire yields when a tension applied to the control wire is at least a second pre-selected tension, which may be greater than the first pre-selected tension.

The present invention has been described with reference to specific exemplary embodiments. Those skilled in the art will understand that changes may be made in details, particularly in matters of shape, size, material and arrangement of parts without departing from the teaching of the invention. Accordingly, various modifications and changes may be made to the embodiments without departing from the broadest scope of the invention. The specifications and drawings are, therefore, to be regarded in an illustrative rather than a restrictive sense.

The present invention has been described with reference to specific exemplary embodiments. Those skilled in the art will understand that changes may be made in details, particularly in matters of shape, size, material and arrangement of parts without departing from the teaching of the invention. For example, different shapes of the yoke, the tension member and the bushing may be used, and different attachments of the clip arms and control wire may be employed. Accordingly, various modifications and changes may be made to the embodiments without departing from the broadest scope of the invention as set forth in the claims that follow. The specifications and drawings are, therefore, to be regarded in an illustrative rather than a restrictive sense.

The invention claimed is:

1. An apparatus for applying clips to tissue, comprising:
 - a flexible sheath extending from a proximal end which, in an operative configuration, extends into a living body to a target portion of tissue to be clipped;
 - a capsule extending from a proximal to a distal end and having an opening formed in a proximal end thereof;
 - a clip assembly provided in the capsule and configured to be operably movable between a closed configuration in which first and second arms of the clip assembly are

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drawn toward one another and an expanded configuration in which the first and second arms are separated from one another to receive target tissue therebetween; a bushing extending between a proximal end coupled to the sheath and a distal end releasably coupled to the capsule via a tab on the distal end of the bushing engaging the opening of the capsule; and
 a control member a distal end of which is releasably coupled to the clip assembly to transmit to the clip assembly forces applied thereto to move the clip assembly between the insertion and expanded configurations.

2. The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the opening is substantially A-shaped.

3. The apparatus of claim 1, wherein a proximal end of the control member is coupled to a control handle which, when the apparatus is in an operative position, remains outside the body accessible to a user.

4. The apparatus of claim 3, wherein the clip assembly further comprises a yoke slidably received in the capsule and releasably coupled to the control member.

5. The apparatus of claim 3, wherein the control member is coupled to the yoke via a frangible link.

6. The apparatus of claim 5, wherein the frangible link is formed as a reduced strength portion of the control member.

7. The apparatus of claim 5, wherein the distal end of the control member comprises a ball received in a socket in the yoke.

8. The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the proximal end of the capsule comprises a keyed portion aligning the capsule in a desired rotational orientation with respect to the bushing.

9. The apparatus of claim 8, wherein the distal end of the bushing comprises a feature configured to mate with the keyed portion of the capsule.

10. The apparatus of claim 1, further comprising a tension member slidably received in the capsule and configured to bias the first and second arms to the expanded configuration.

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11. An apparatus for applying clips to tissue within a living body, comprising:
 a capsule;
 a clip assembly housed within the capsule for movement between an insertion configuration in which first and second arms of the clip assembly are drawn toward one another and an expanded configuration in which the first and second arms are separated from one another to receive tissue therebetween;
 a control element including a connector element, extending between a proximal end which, during use, remains outside the body accessible to a user and a distal end removably connected to the clip assembly via the connector element, wherein the control element detaches from the connector element via a frangible link; and
 a sheath extending from a proximal to a distal end and covering a portion of the control element, wherein the distal end of the sheath is releasably coupled to the capsule.

12. The apparatus of claim 11, wherein the frangible link is formed as a reduced diameter portion of the control element.

13. The apparatus of claim 11, wherein the clip assembly includes a yoke slidably received in the capsule and removably coupled to the control element.

14. The apparatus of claim 13, wherein the yoke is connected to the control element via a ball and socket joint.

15. The apparatus of claim 11, wherein the sheath is coupled to the capsule via a bushing including a tab on a distal end thereof received in an opening at a proximal end of the capsule.

16. The apparatus of claim 15, wherein the opening is substantially A-shaped.

17. The apparatus of claim 11, further comprising a tension member slidably received in the capsule and configured to bias the first and second arms to the expanded configuration.

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