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(54) **SYSTEMS FOR IMPLANTING AND USING A CONDUIT WITHIN A TISSUE WALL**

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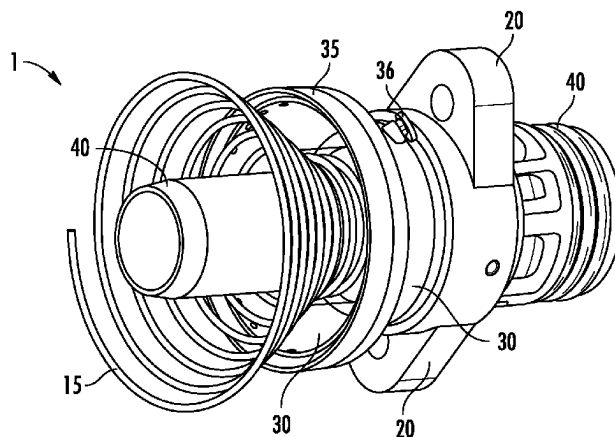
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(57)

ABSTRACT

Various embodiments of the present invention provide a conduit system including an outer lumen, an inner lumen, and an attaching device. In other embodiments, a multiple access port device adapted for communication with at least one of an outer lumen, an inner lumen, or an attaching device of a conduit system is provided. In yet other embodiments, a system including an inner lumen that is collapsible is provided. Means for closing a conduit system are also provided, including a plug for insertion through an attaching device and a variable radius coiled member associated with an attaching device.

20 Claims, 29 Drawing Sheets



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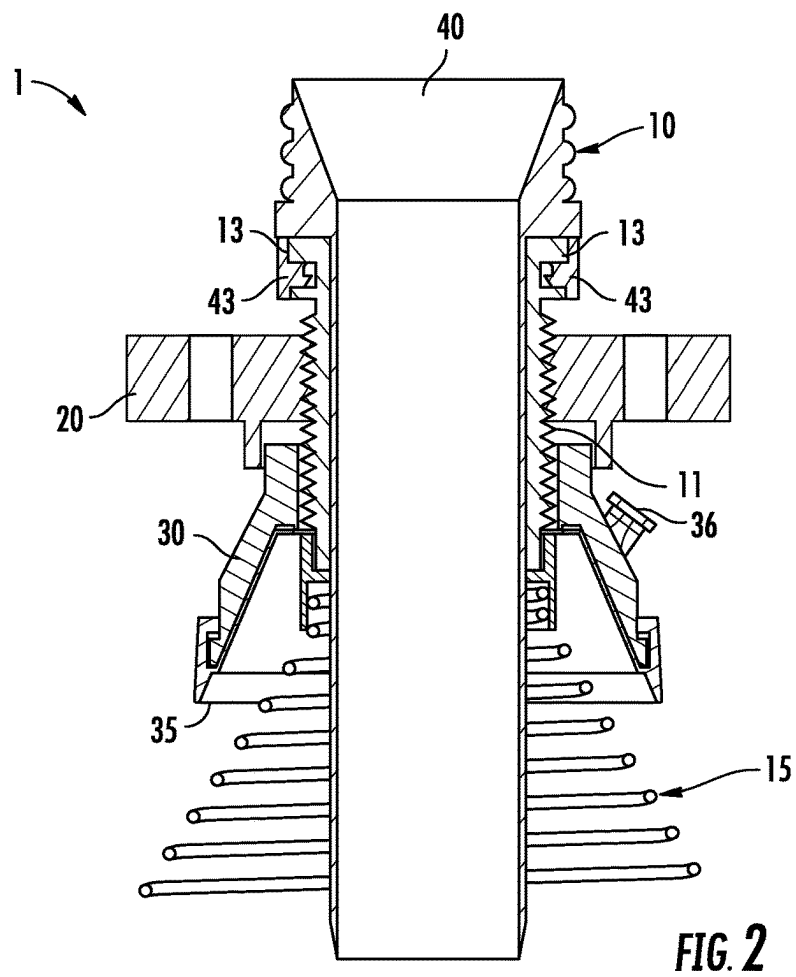
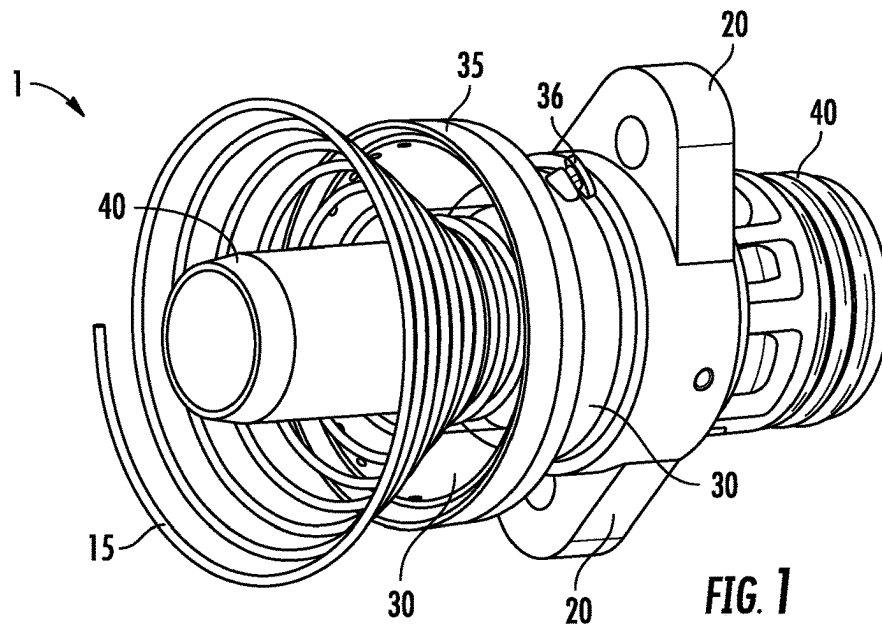
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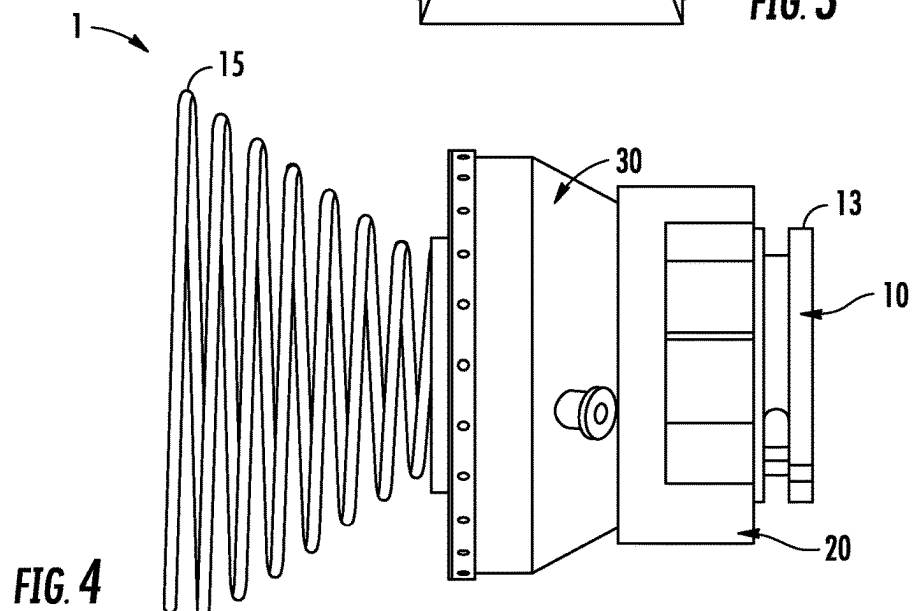
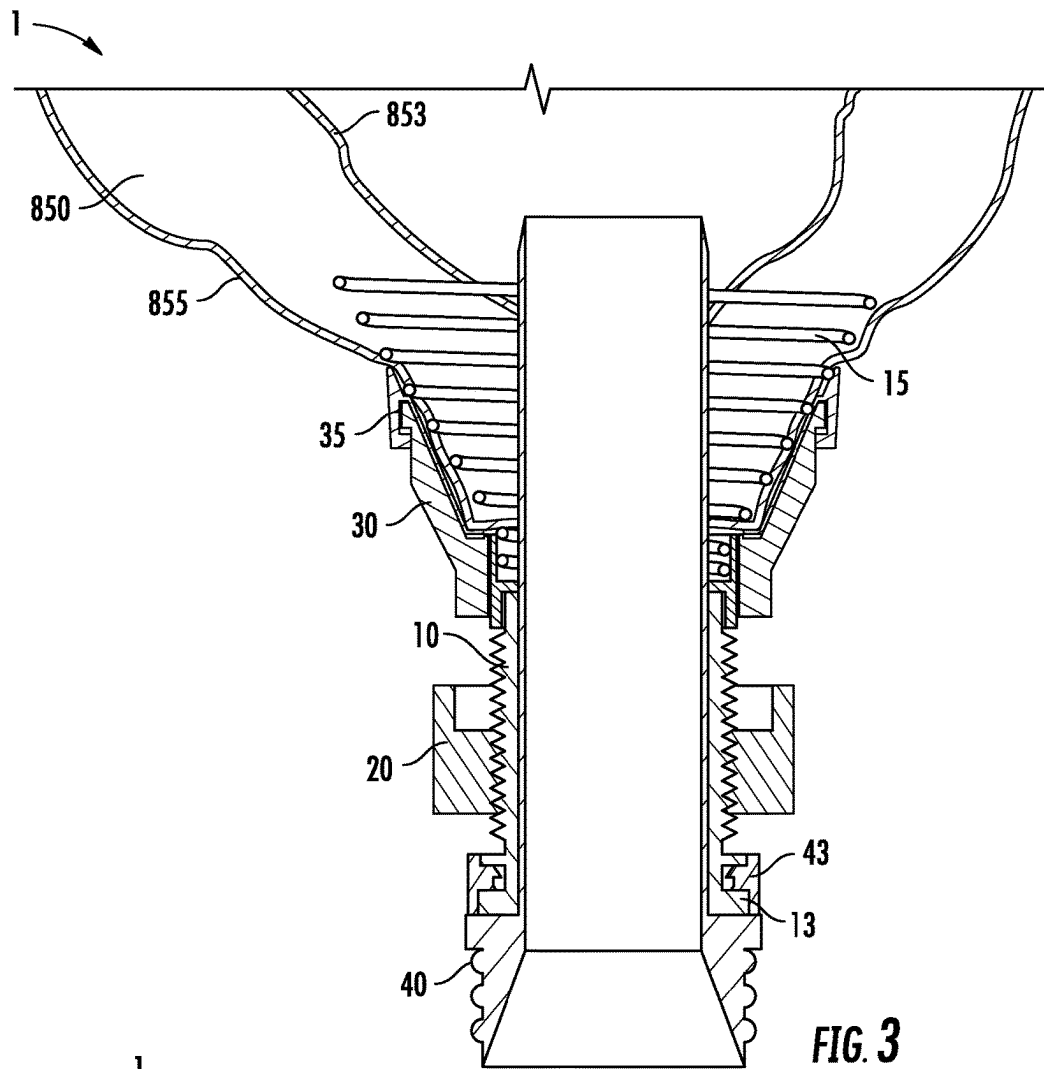
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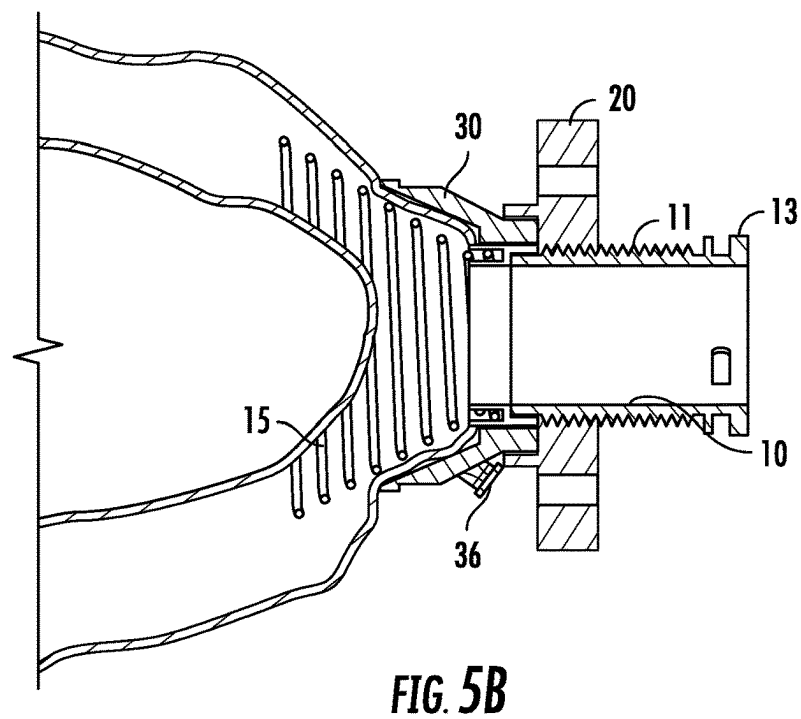
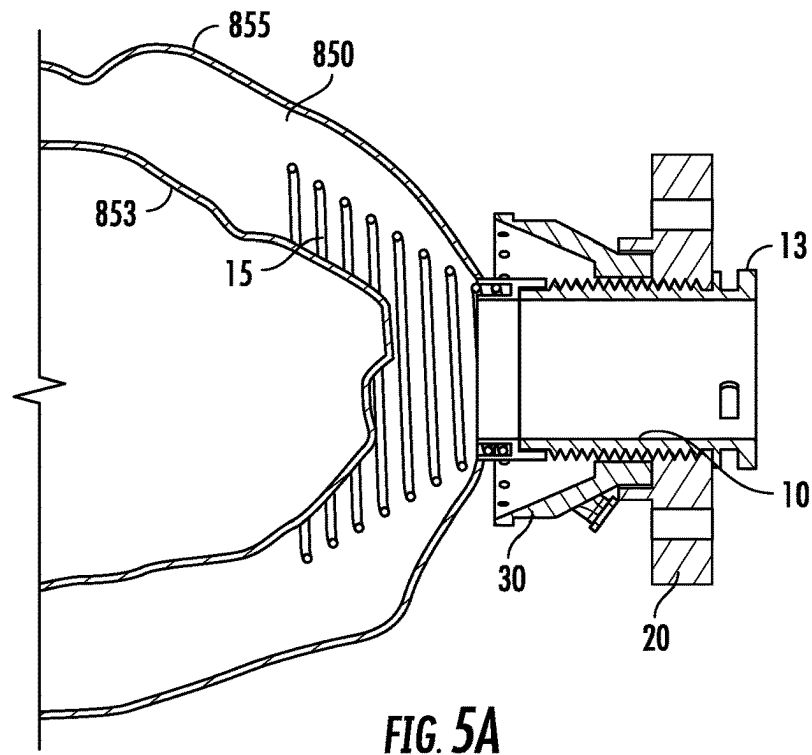
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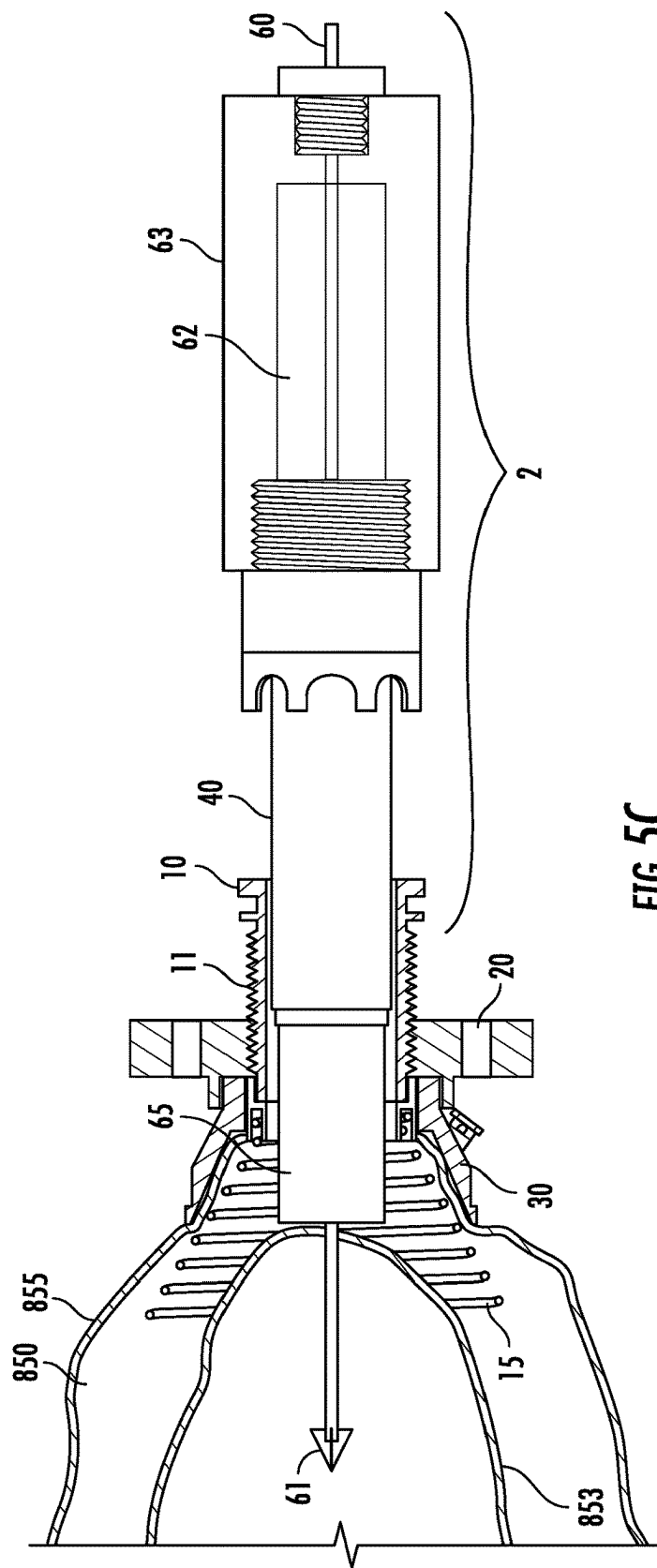
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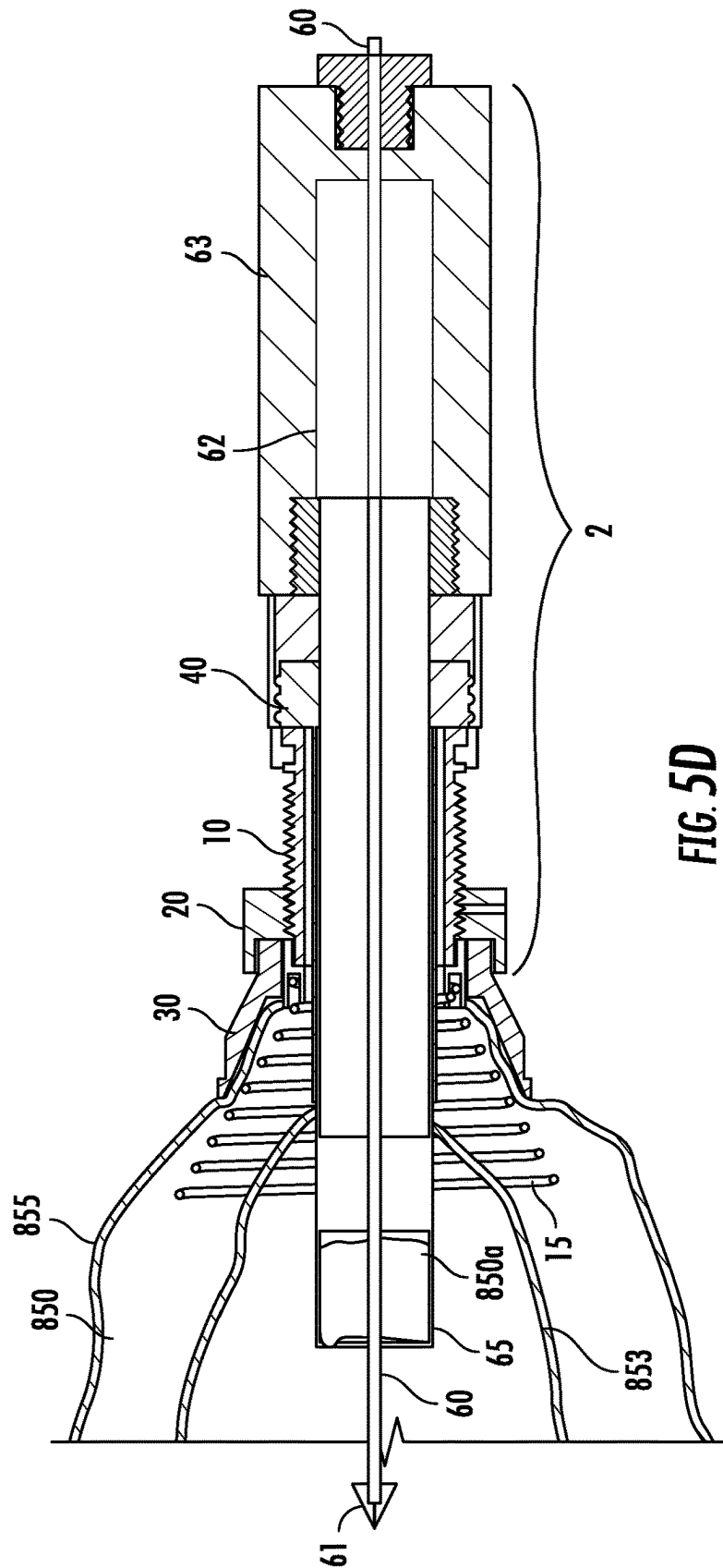


FIG. 5D

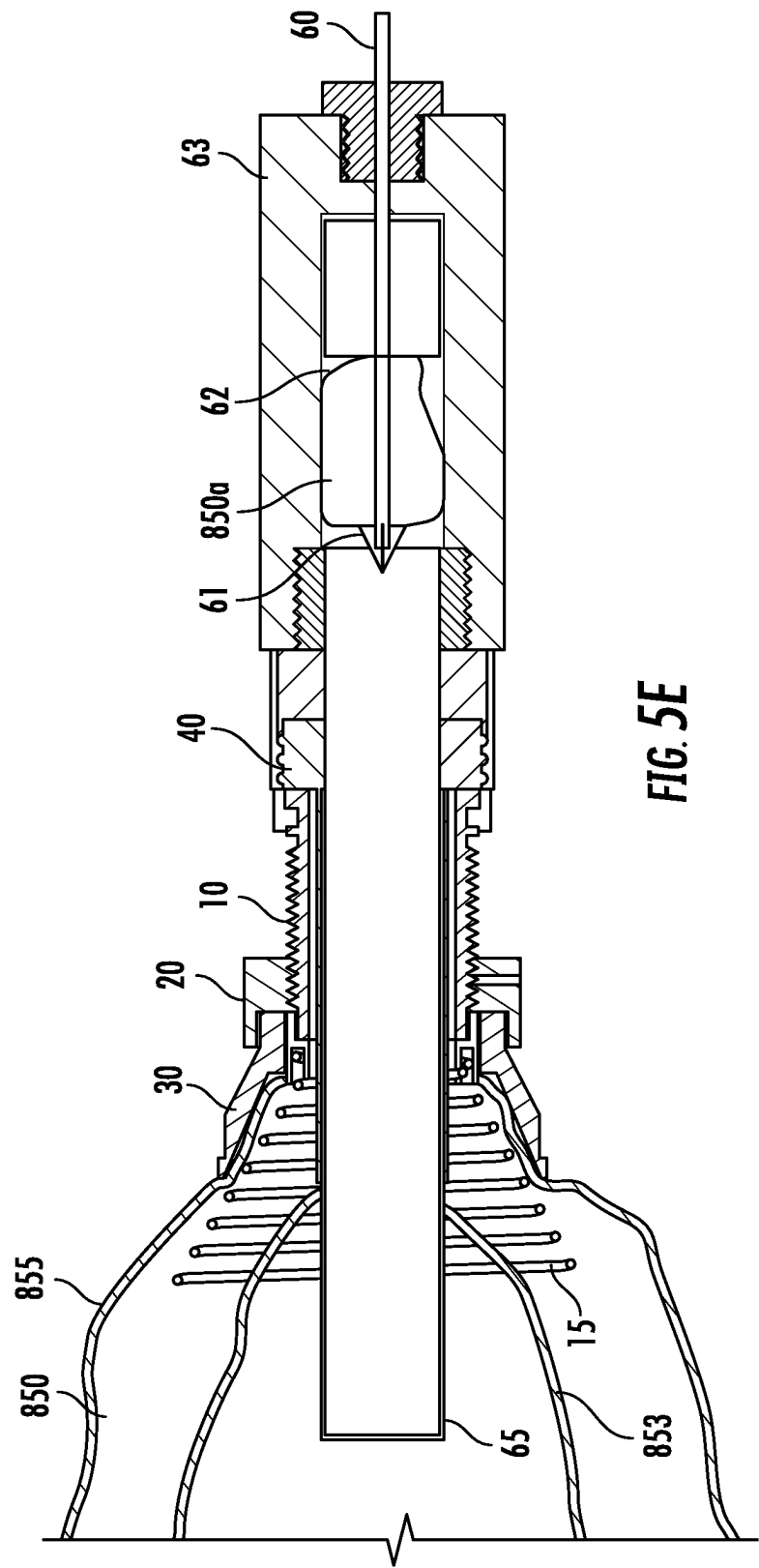


FIG. 5E

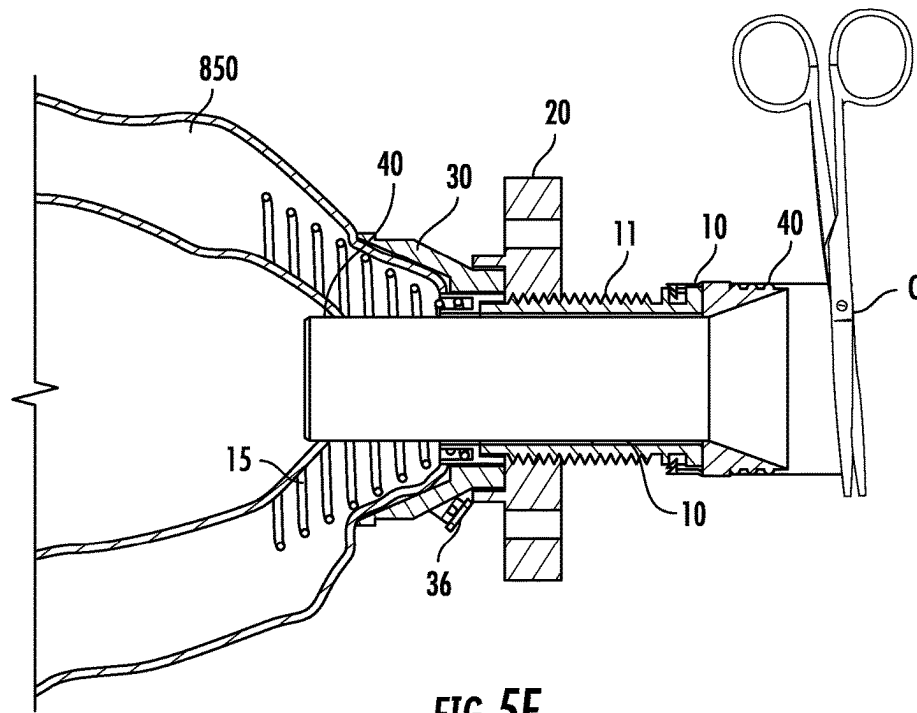


FIG. 5F

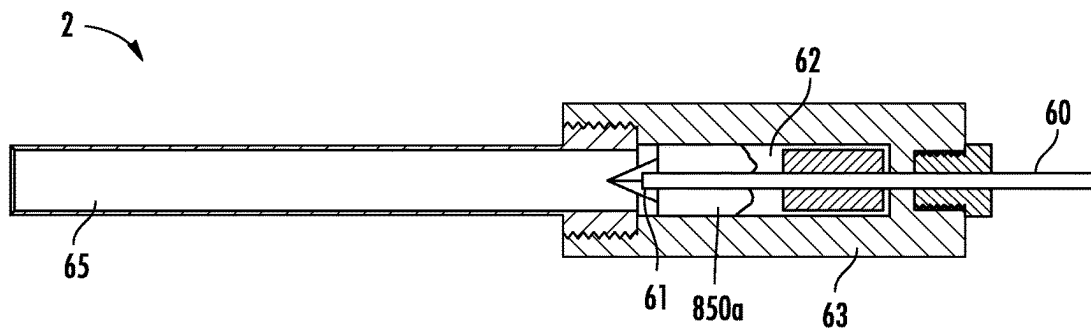


FIG. 5G

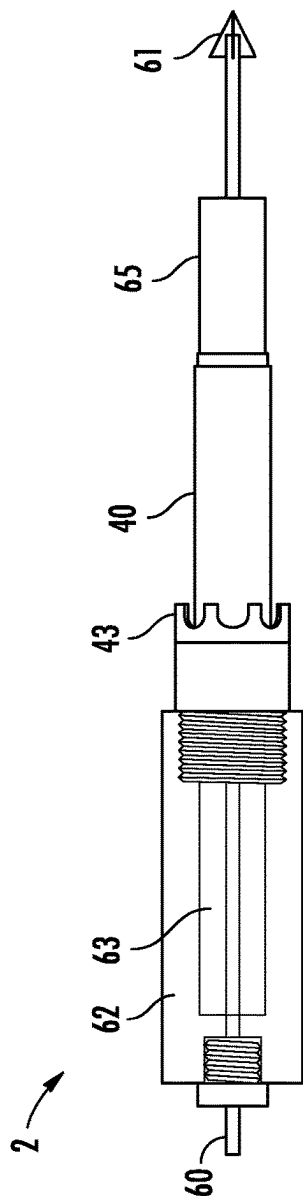


FIG. 6

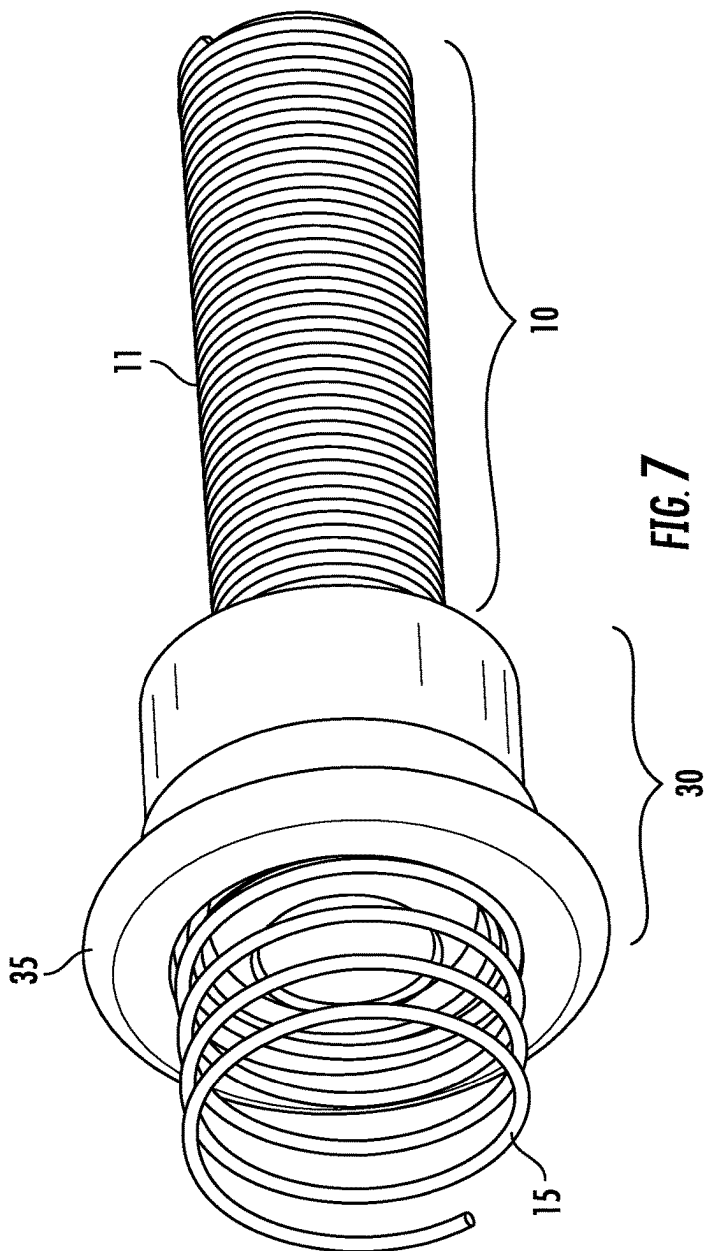
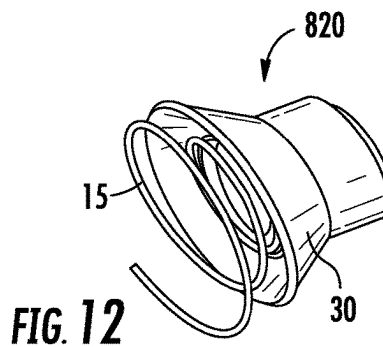
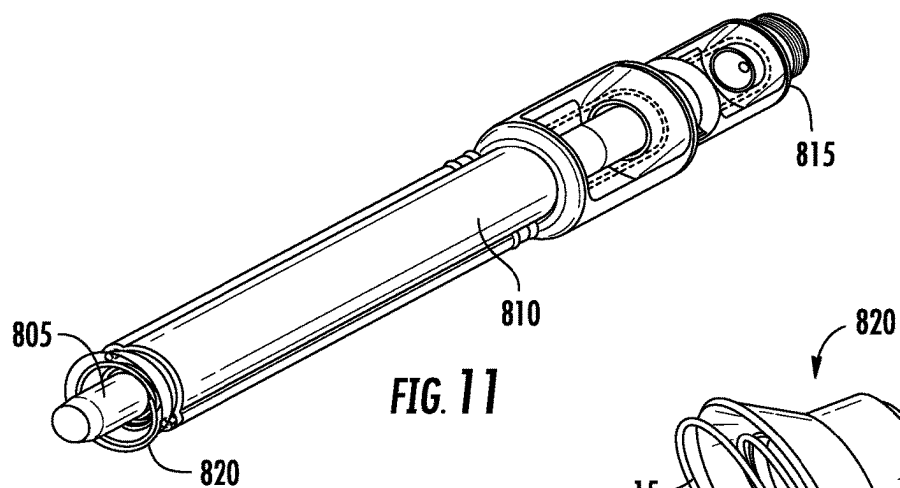
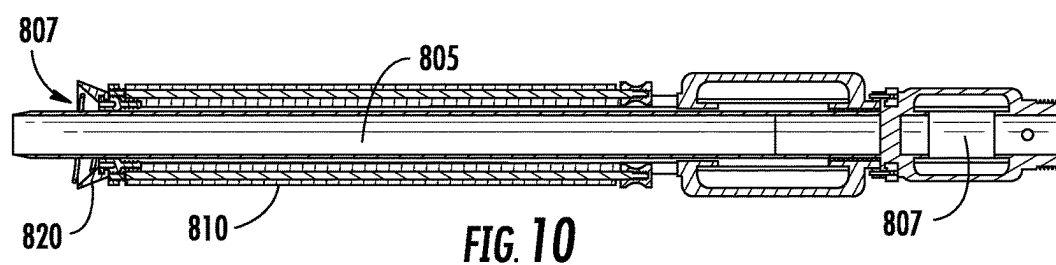
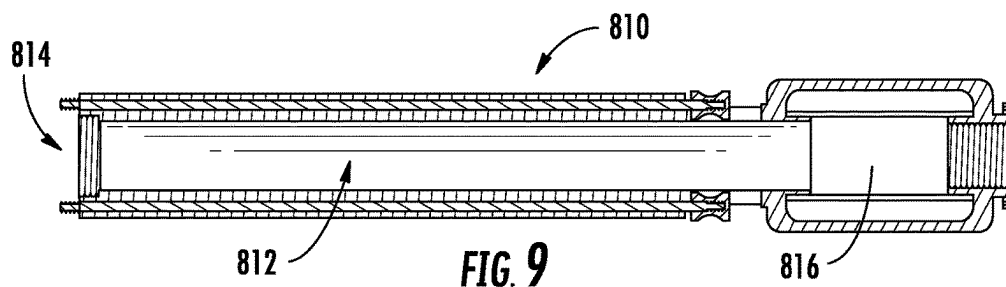
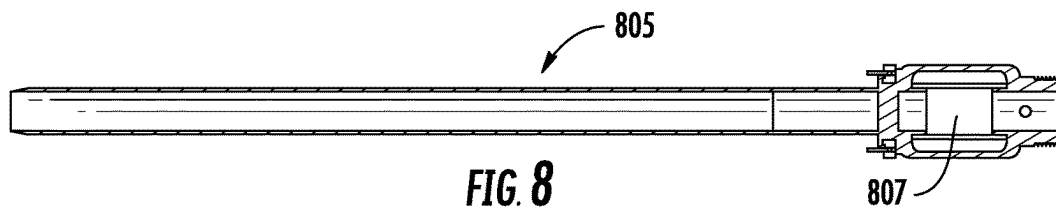


FIG. 7



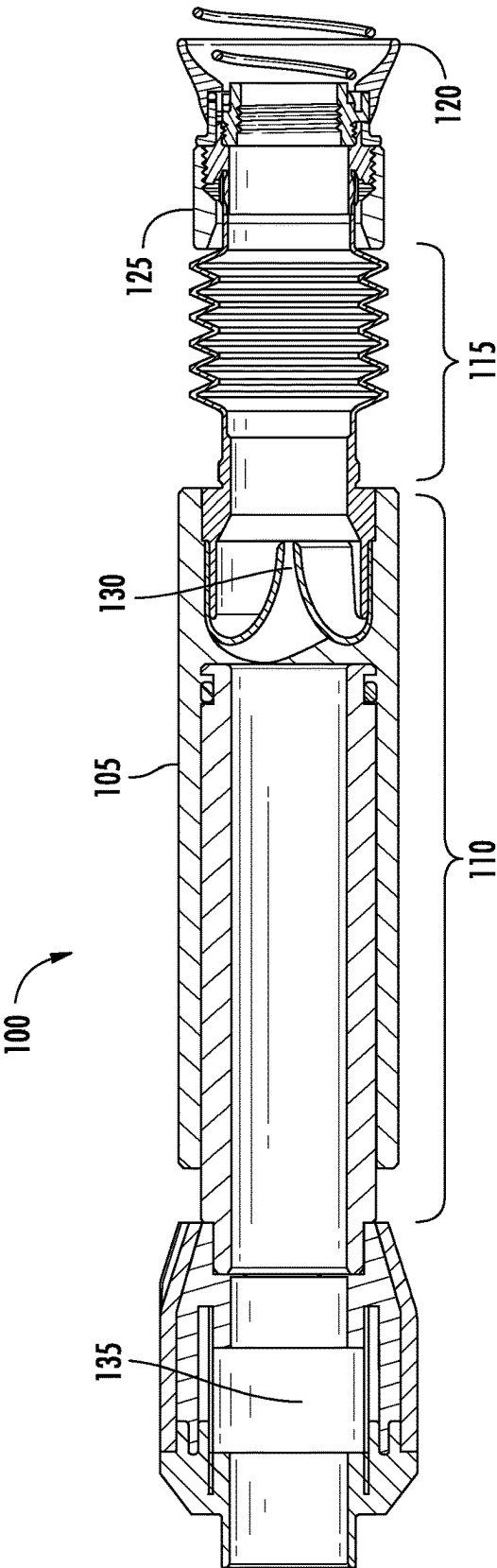


FIG. 13A

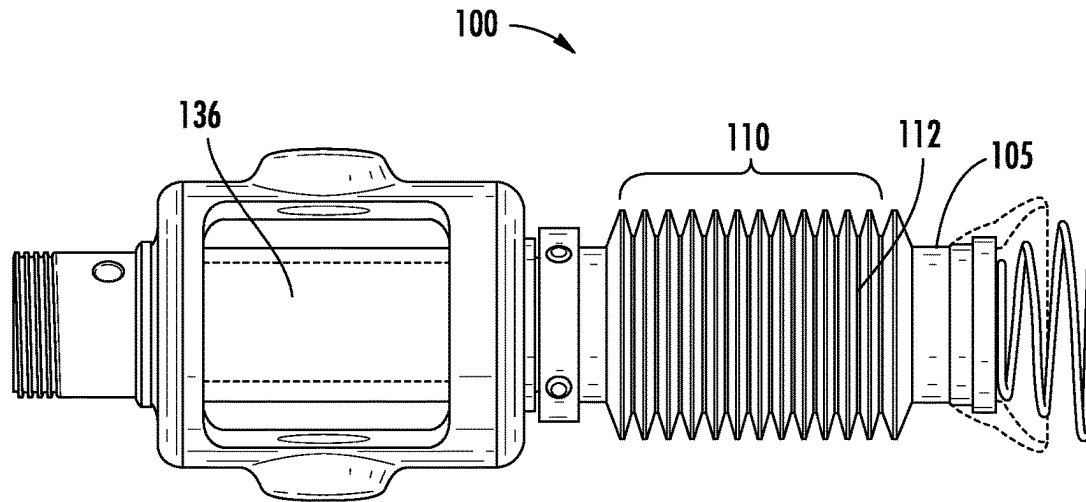


FIG. 13B

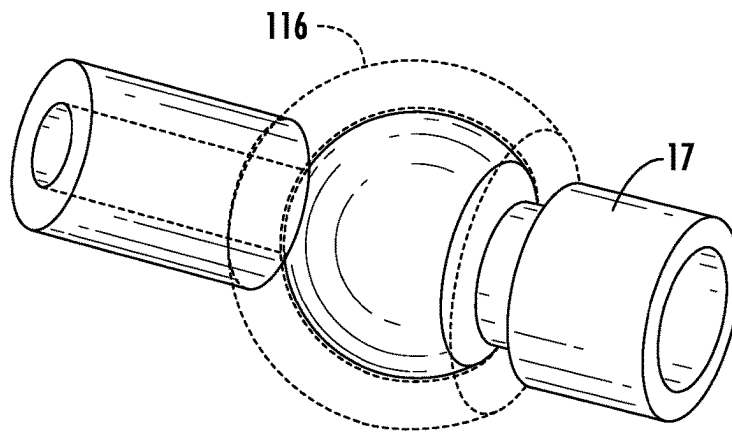


FIG. 13C

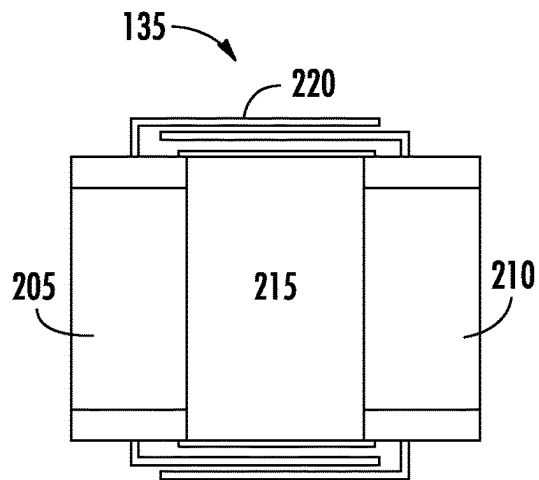


FIG. 14A

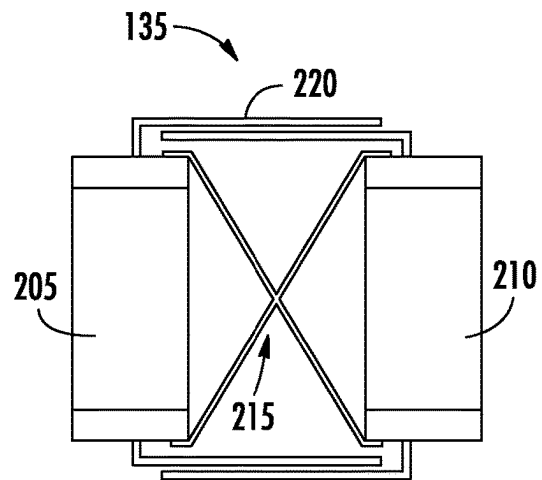


FIG. 14B

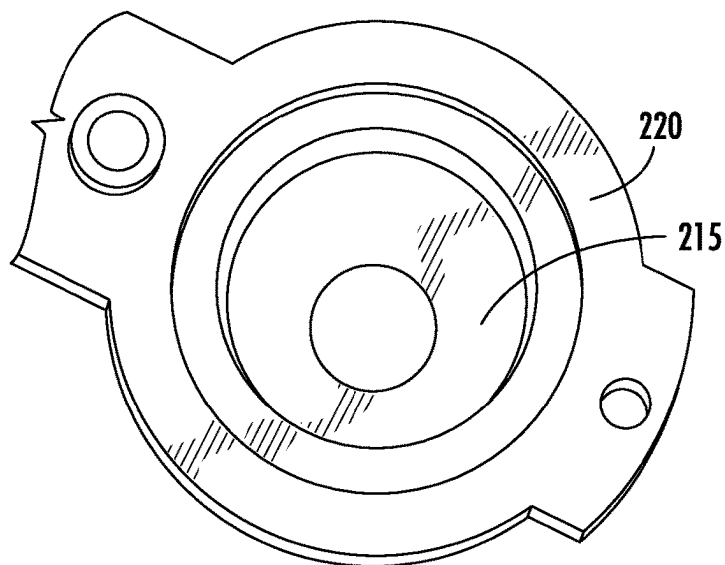
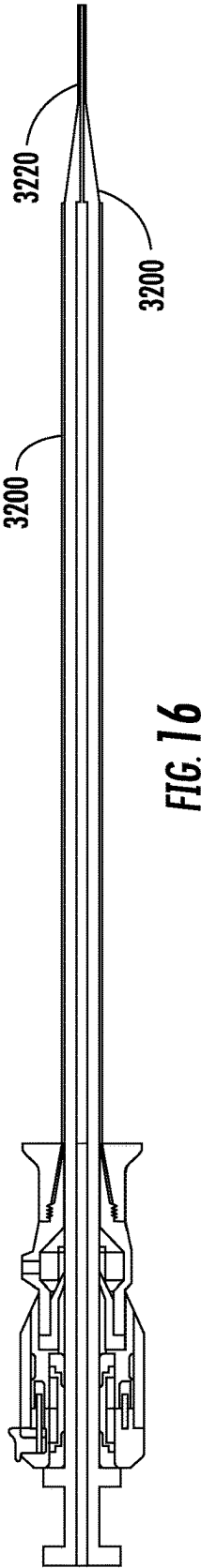
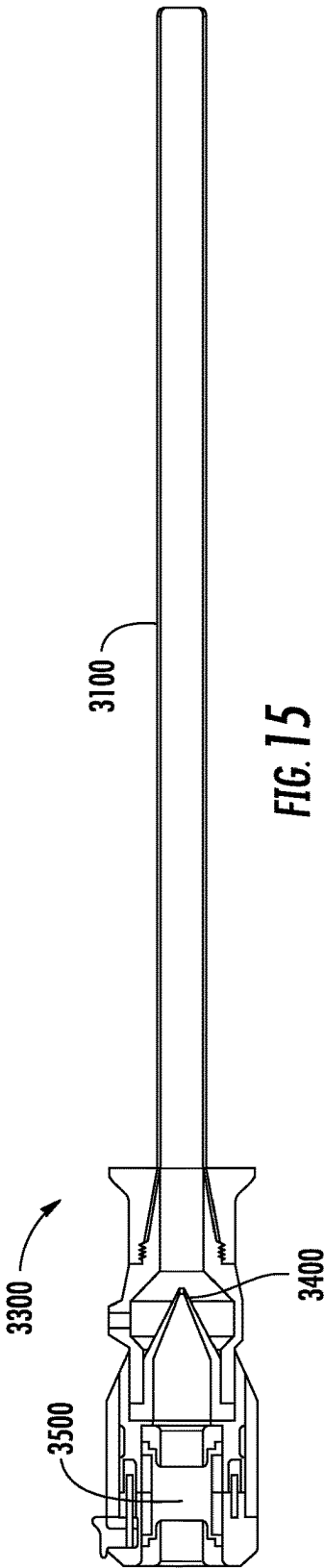


FIG. 14C



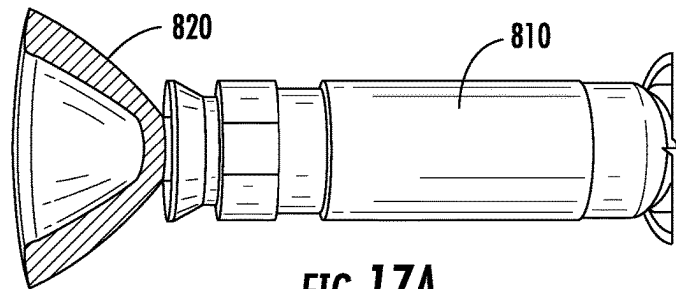


FIG. 17A

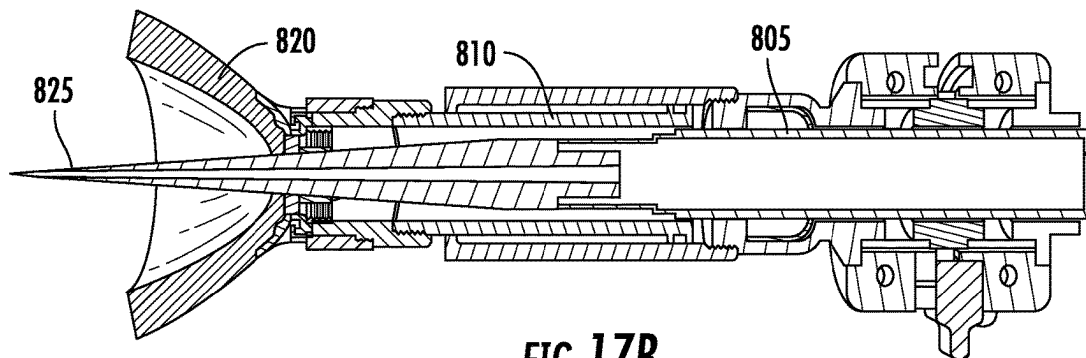


FIG. 17B

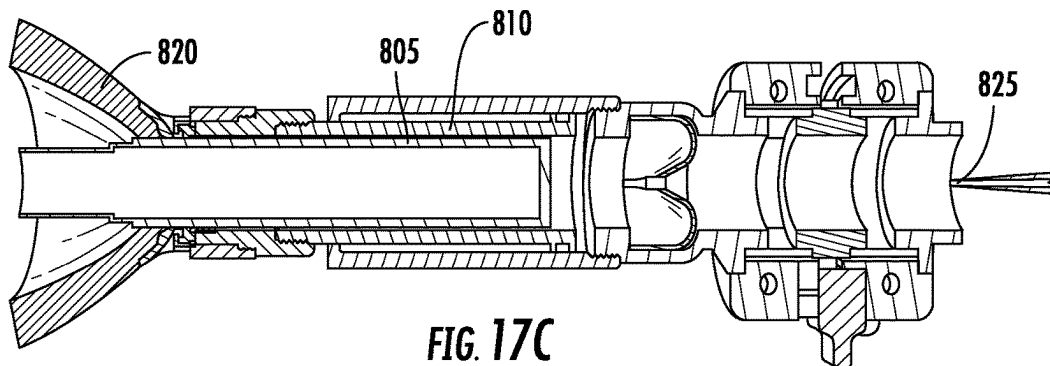
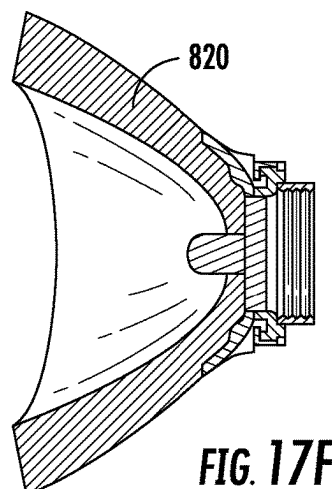
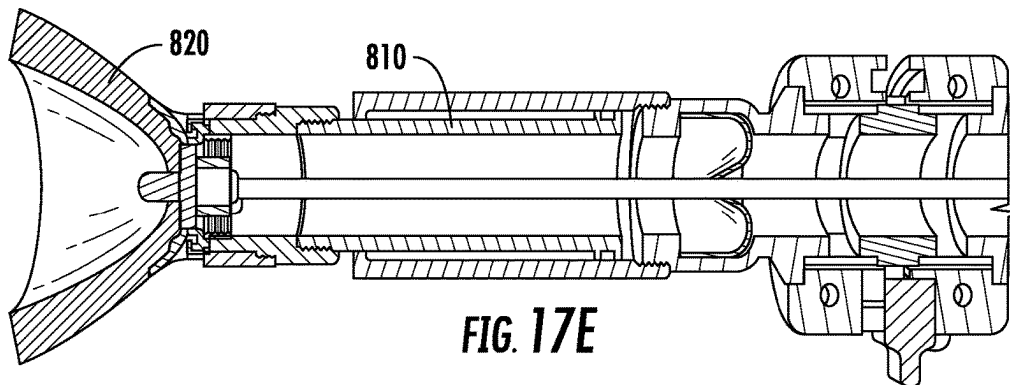
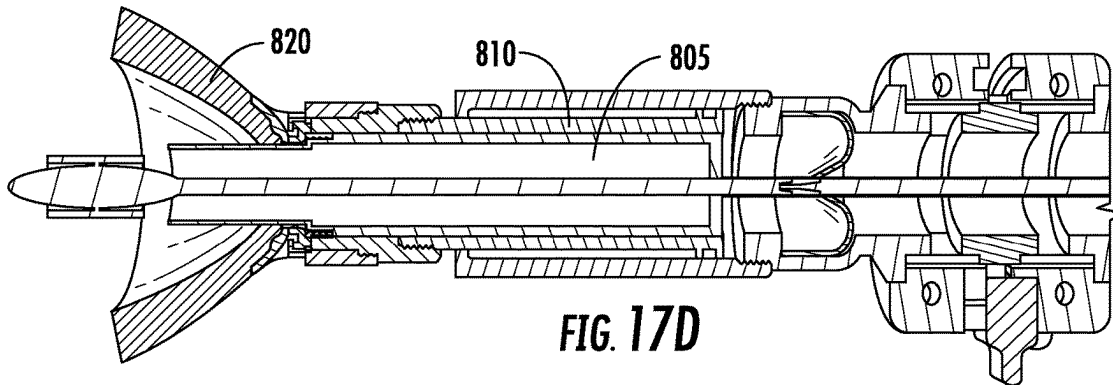


FIG. 17C



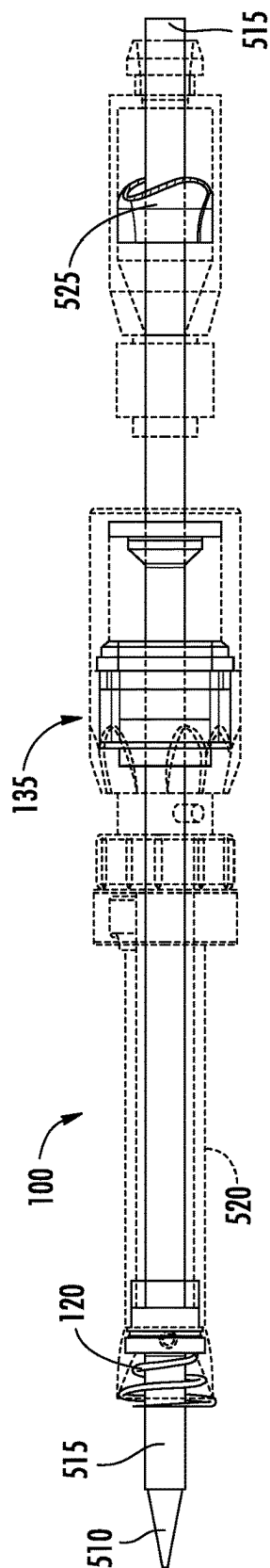


FIG. 18A

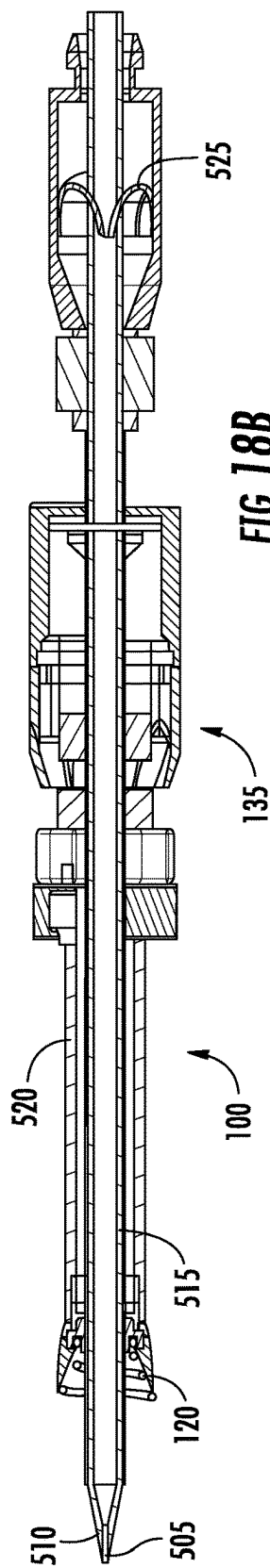


FIG. 18B

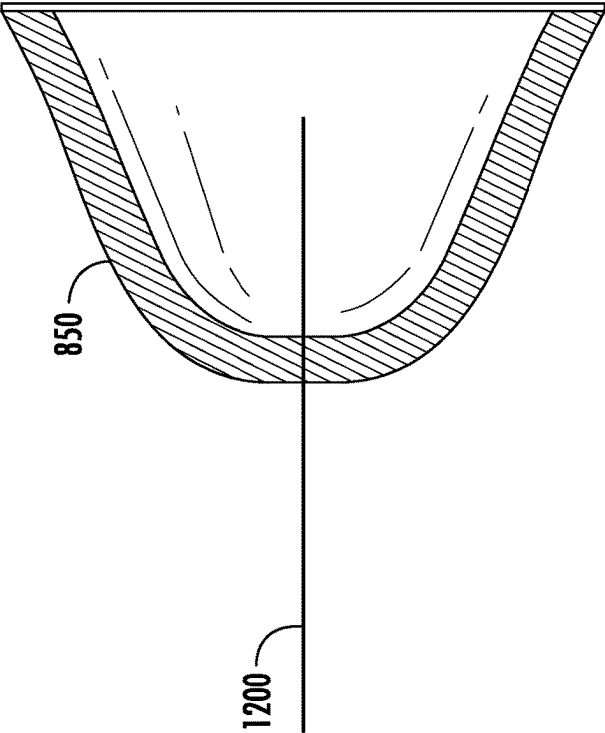


FIG. 19A

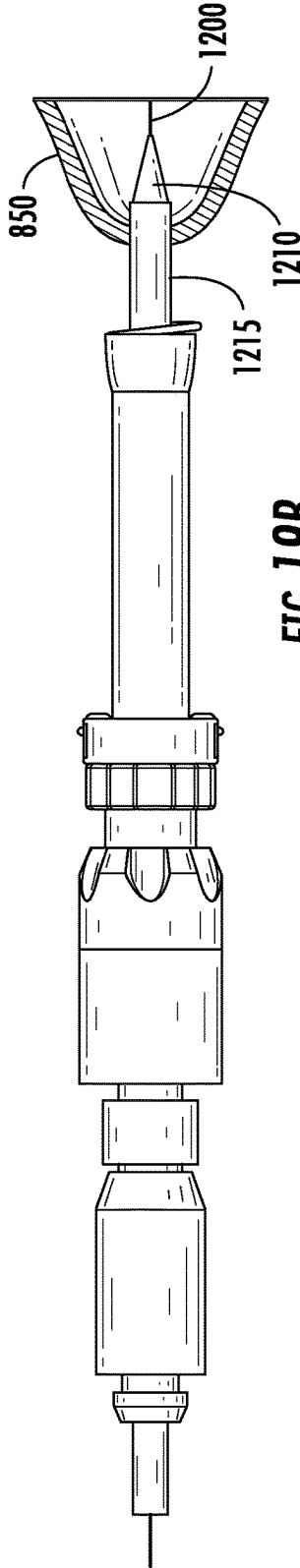
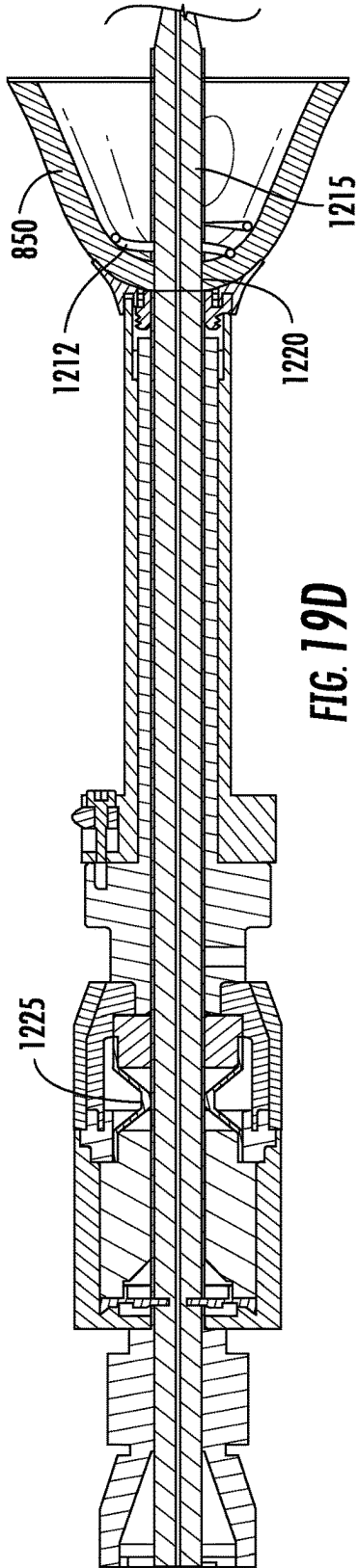
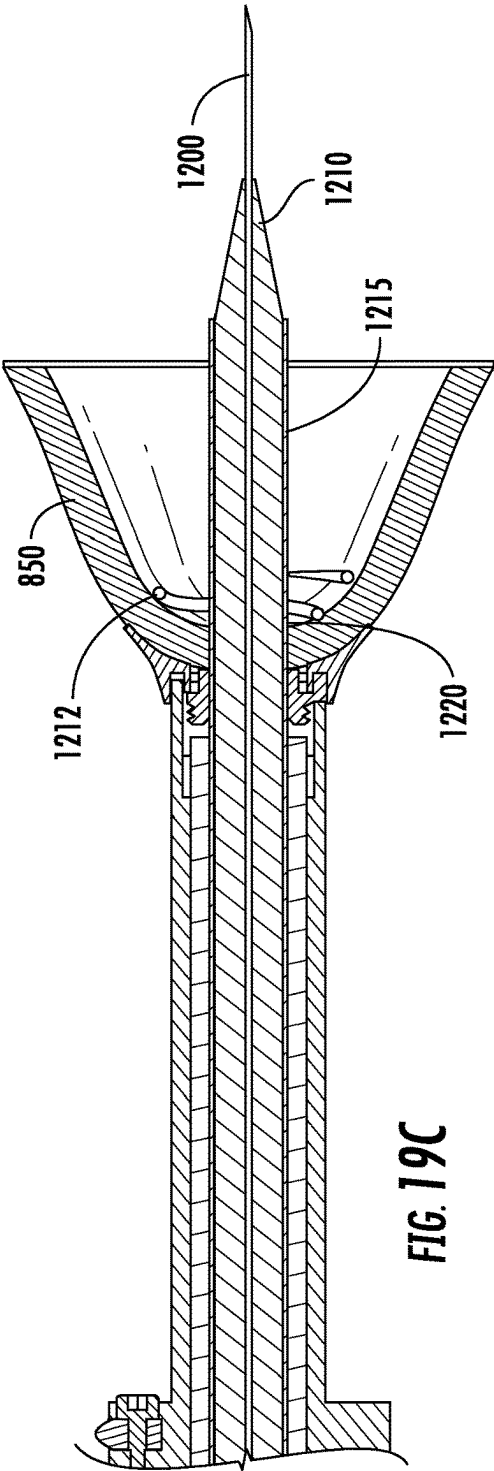
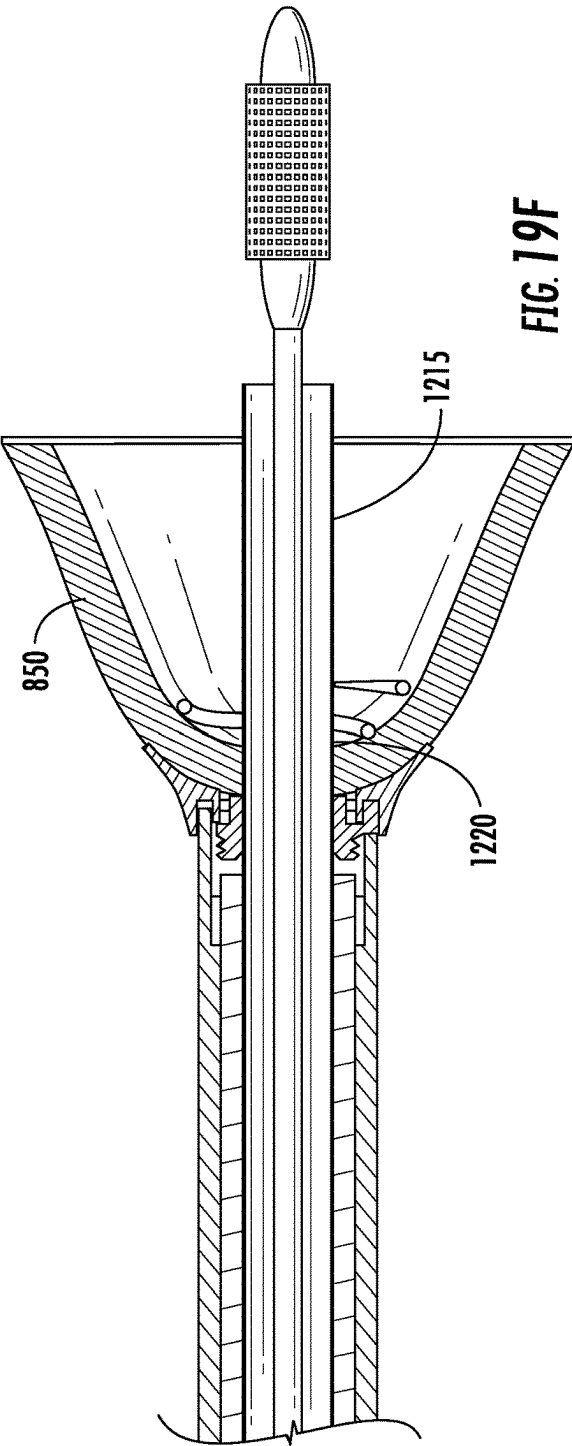
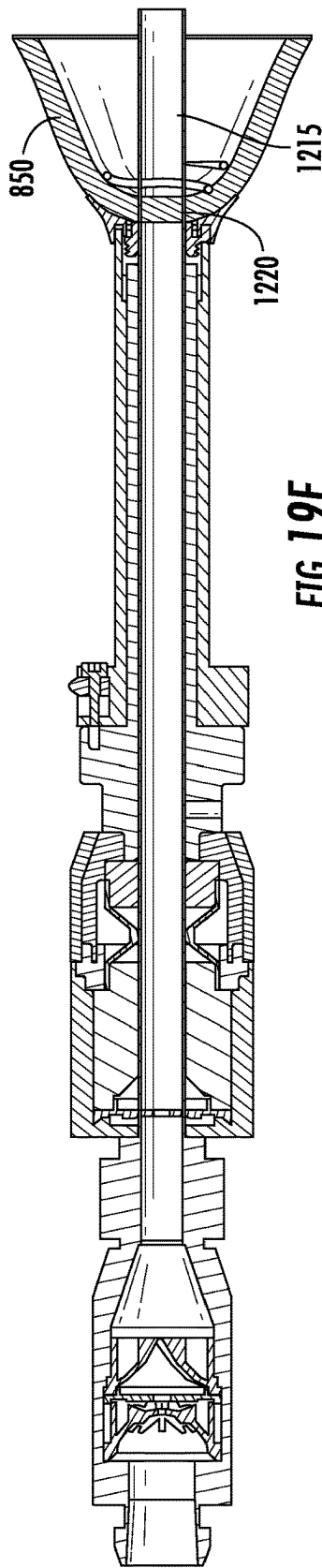
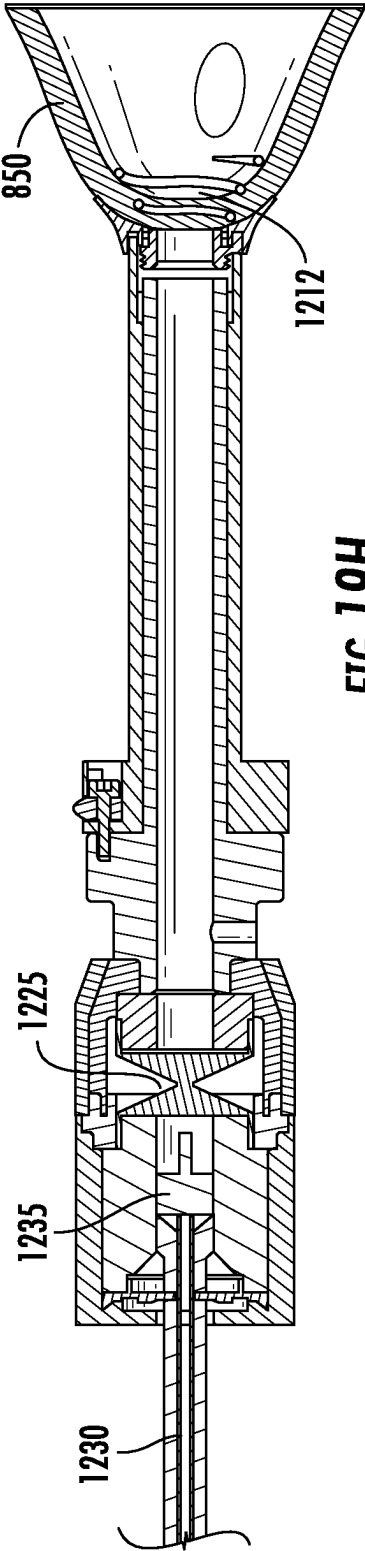
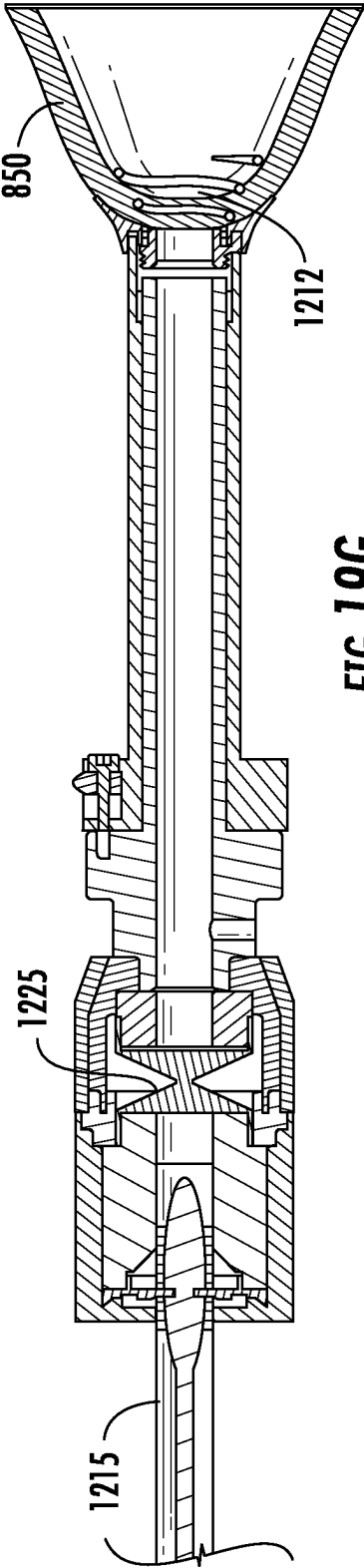


FIG. 19B







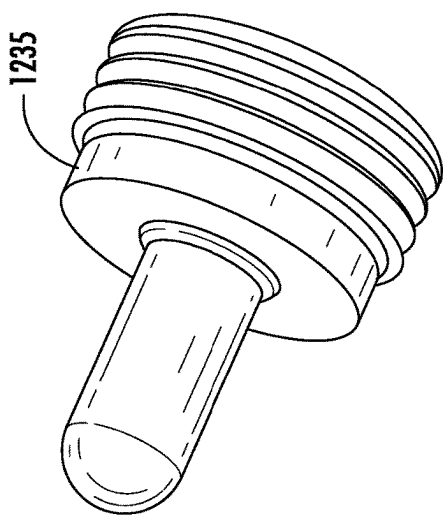


FIG. 19J

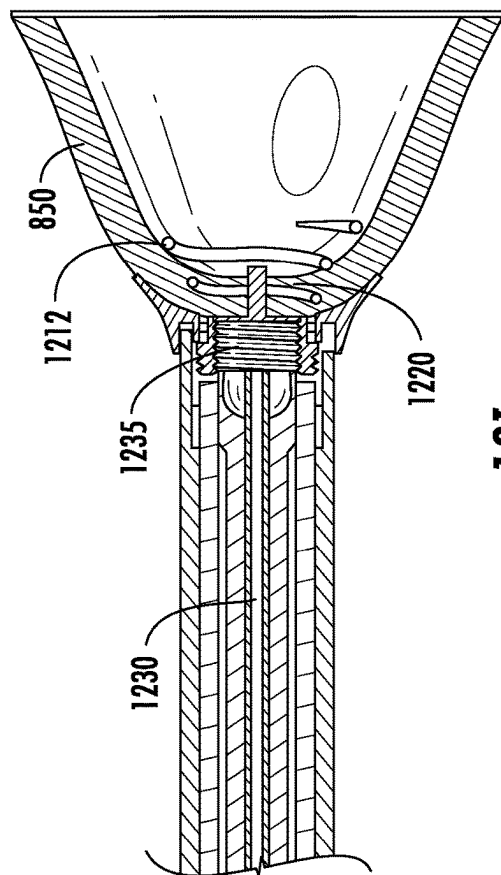


FIG. 19I

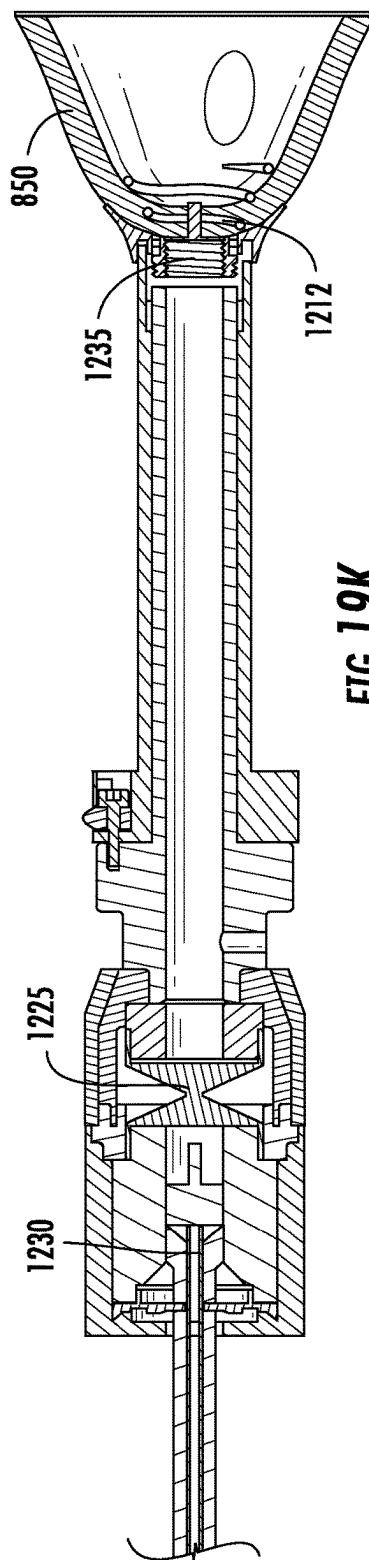


FIG. 19K

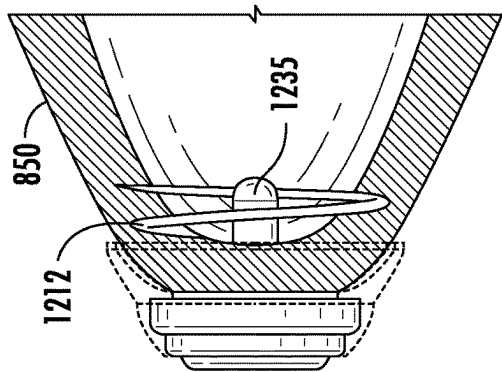


FIG. 19L

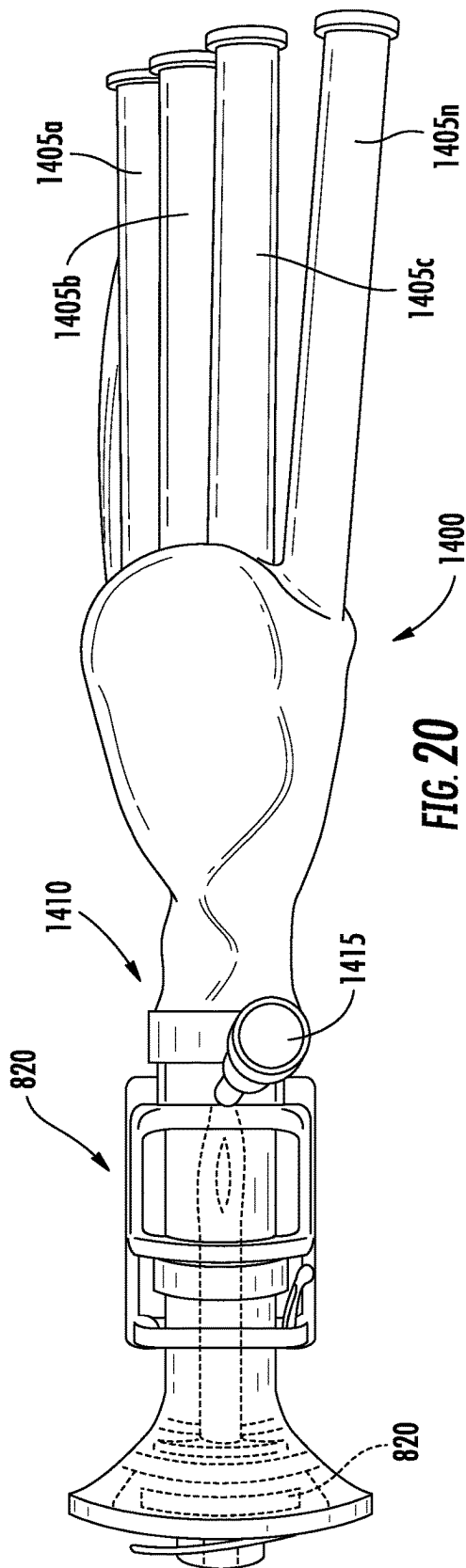


FIG. 20

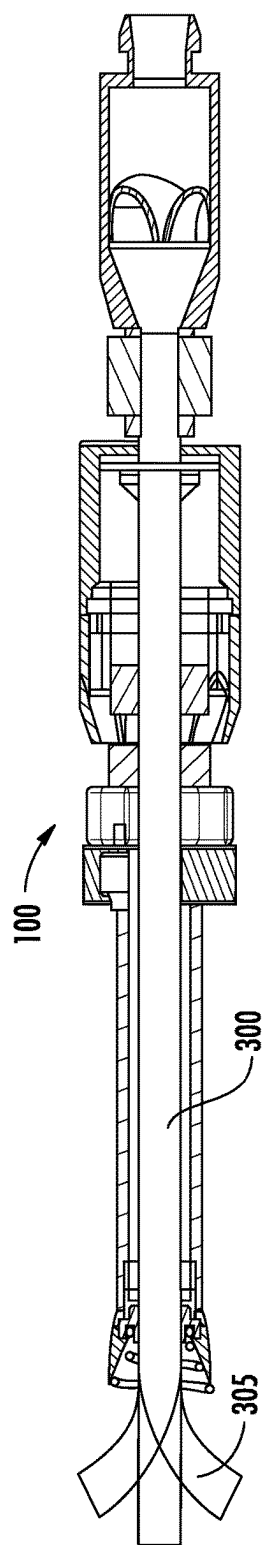


FIG. 21A

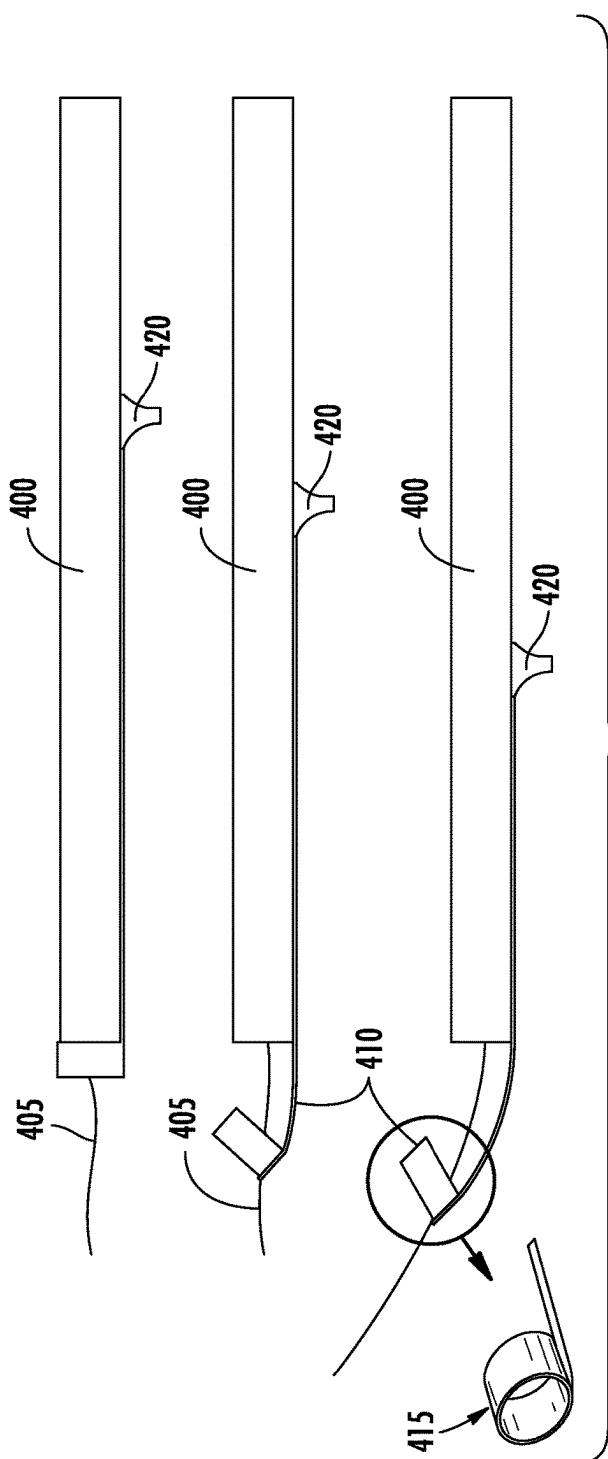


FIG. 21B

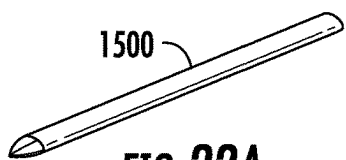


FIG. 22A

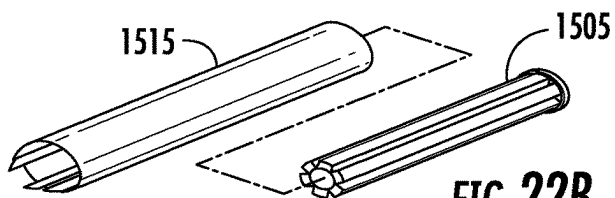


FIG. 22B



FIG. 22C



FIG. 22D

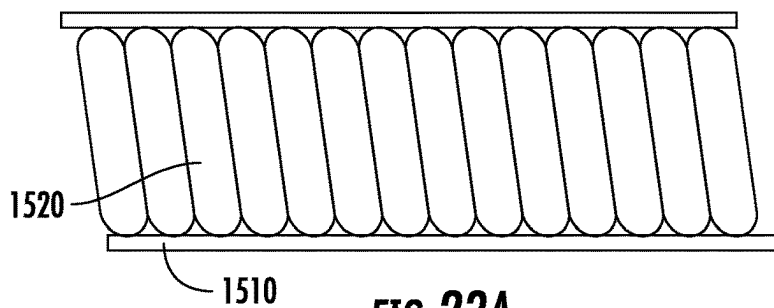


FIG. 23A

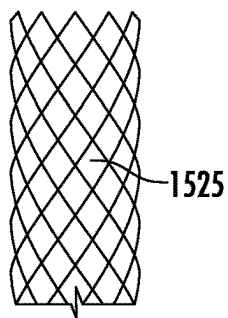


FIG. 23B

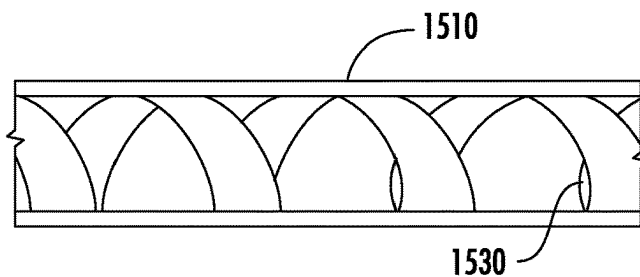


FIG. 23C

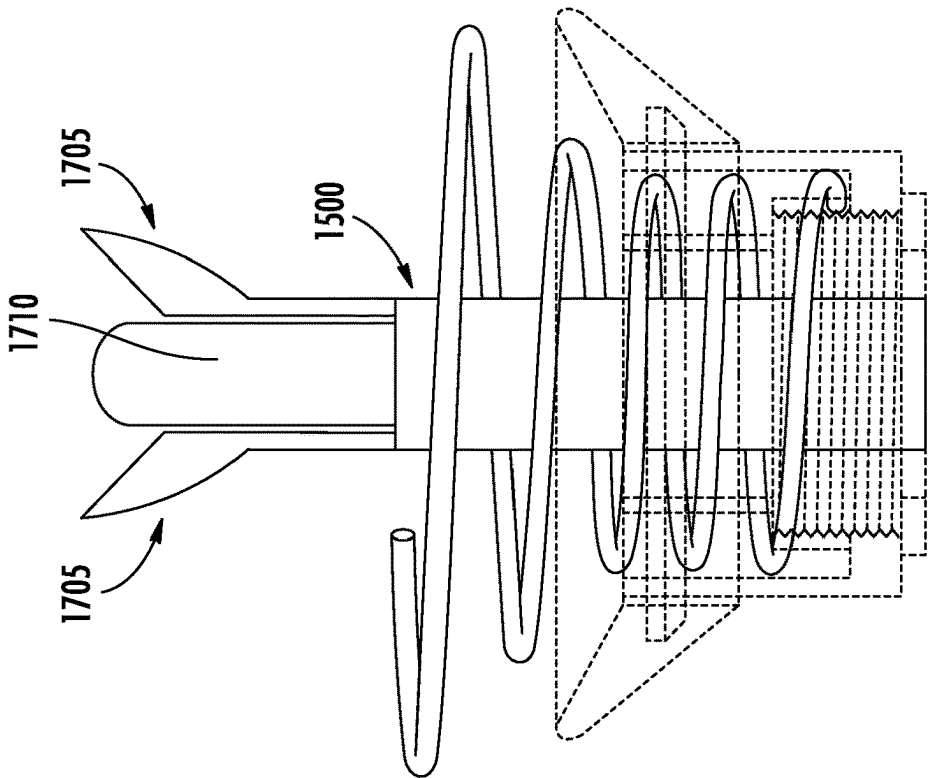


FIG. 24B

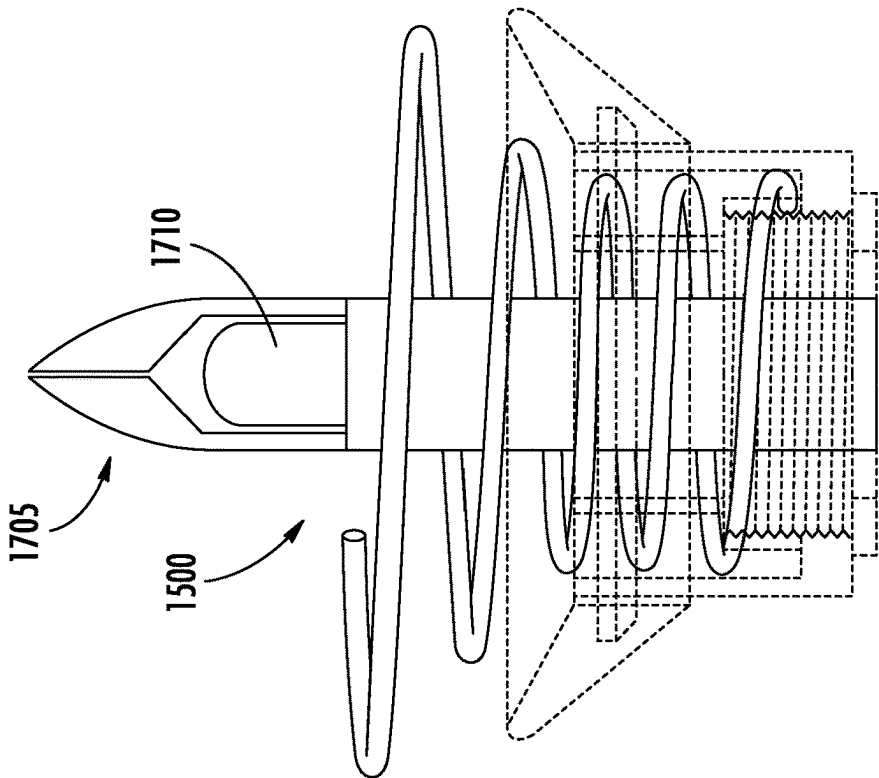


FIG. 24A

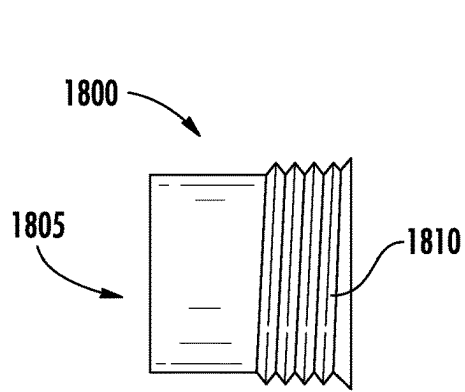


FIG. 25A

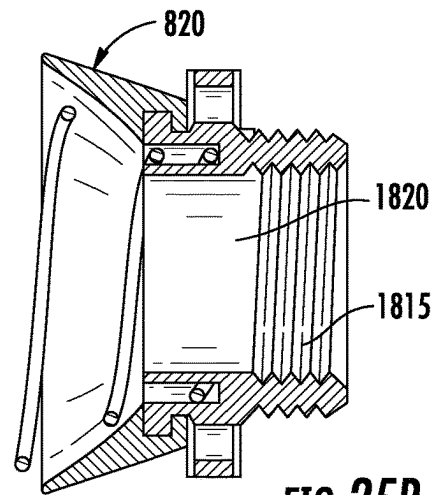


FIG. 25B

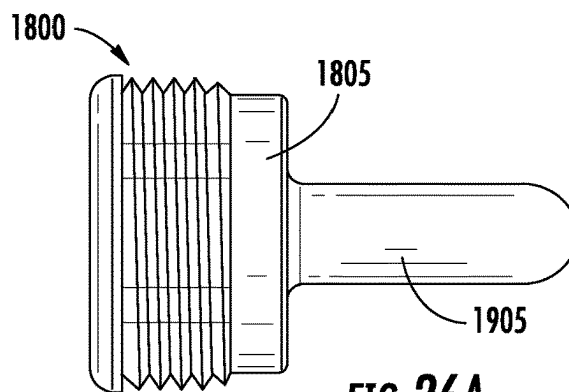


FIG. 26A

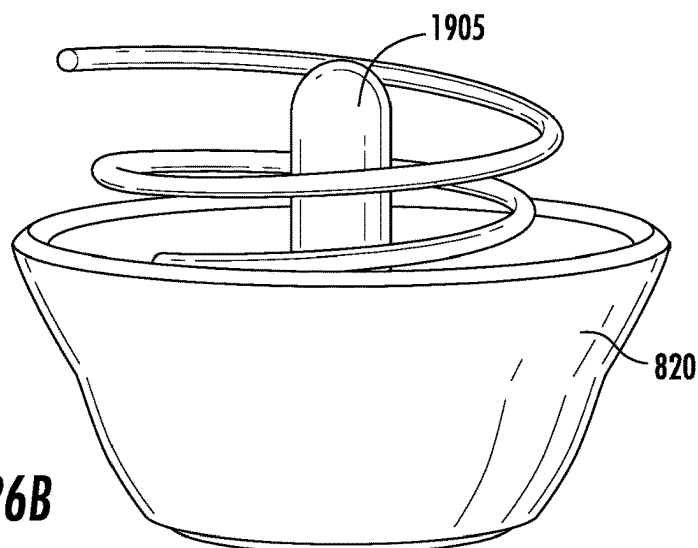
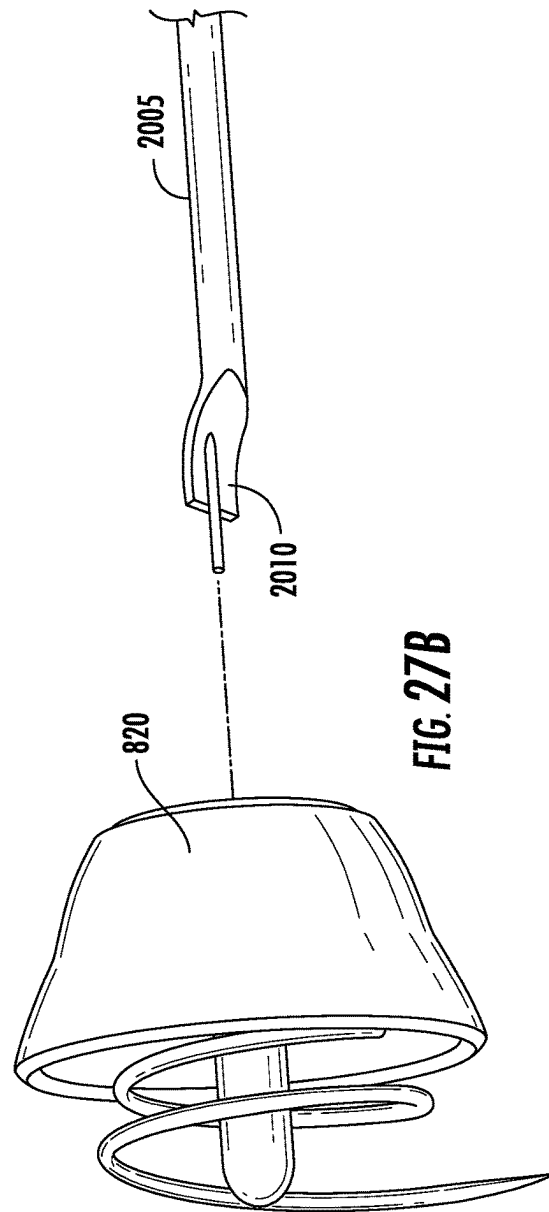
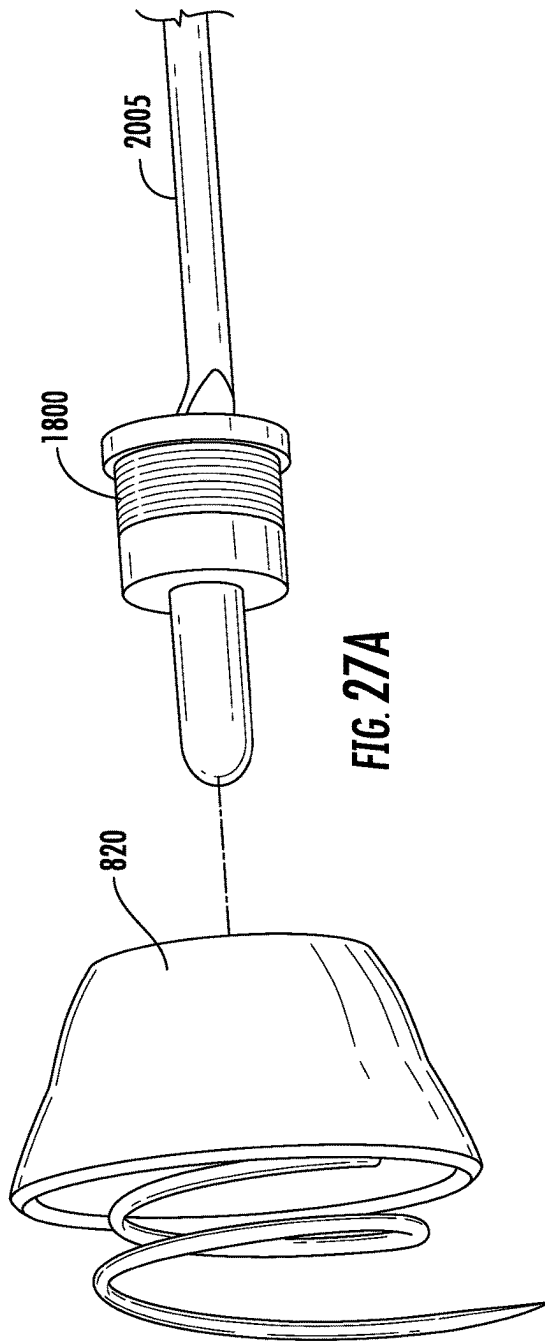
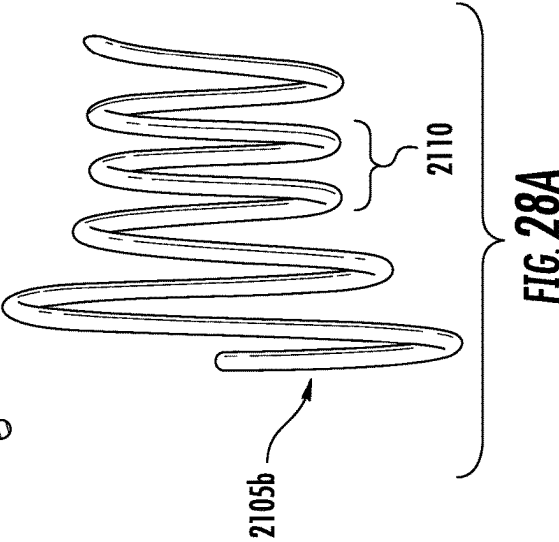
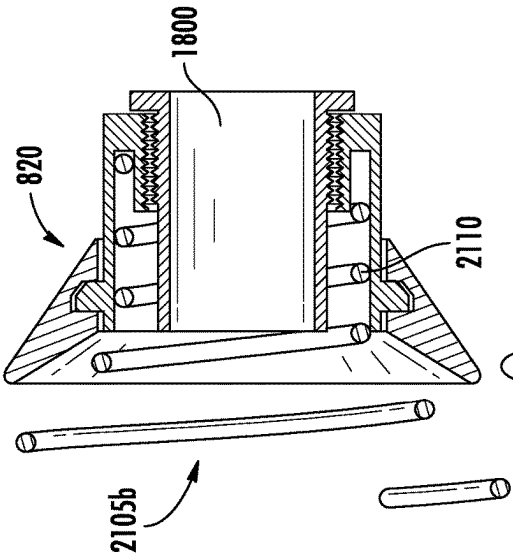
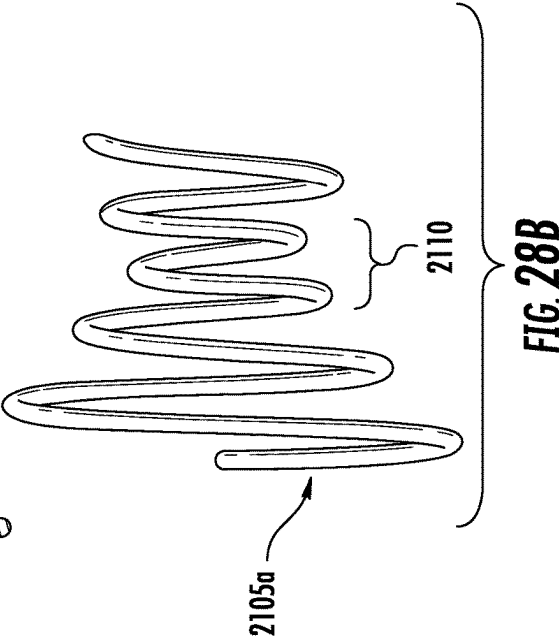
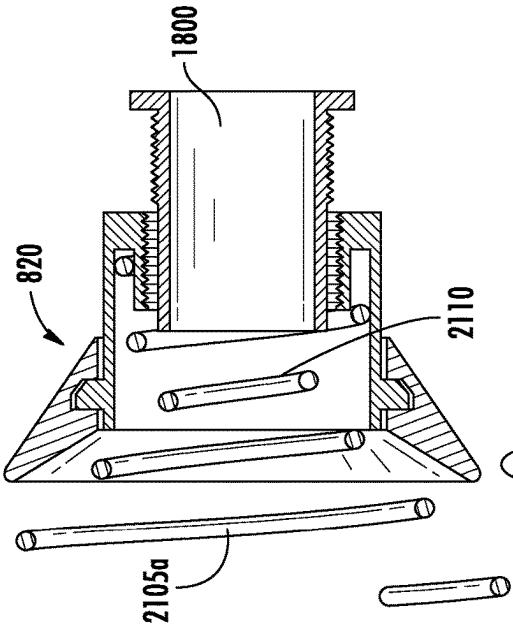
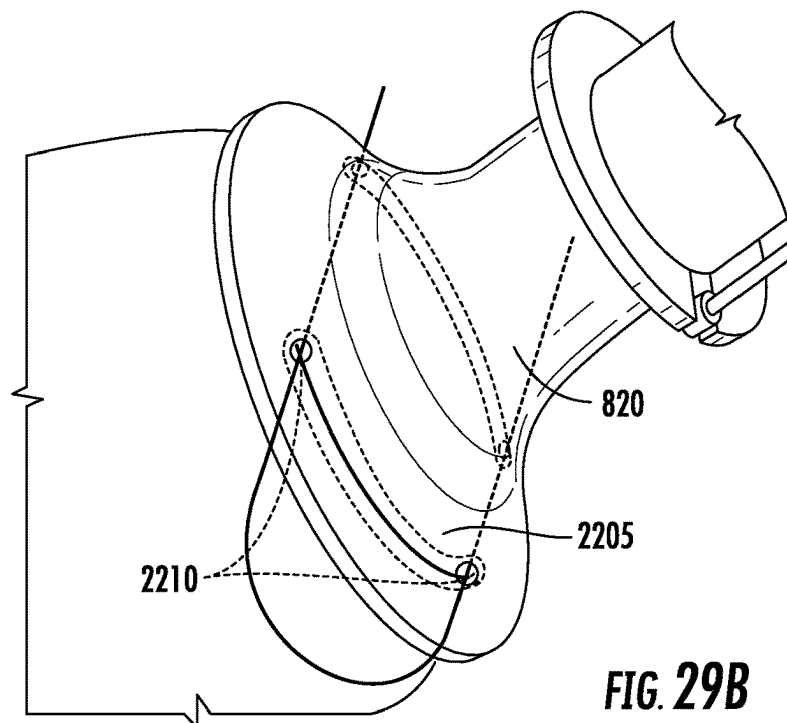
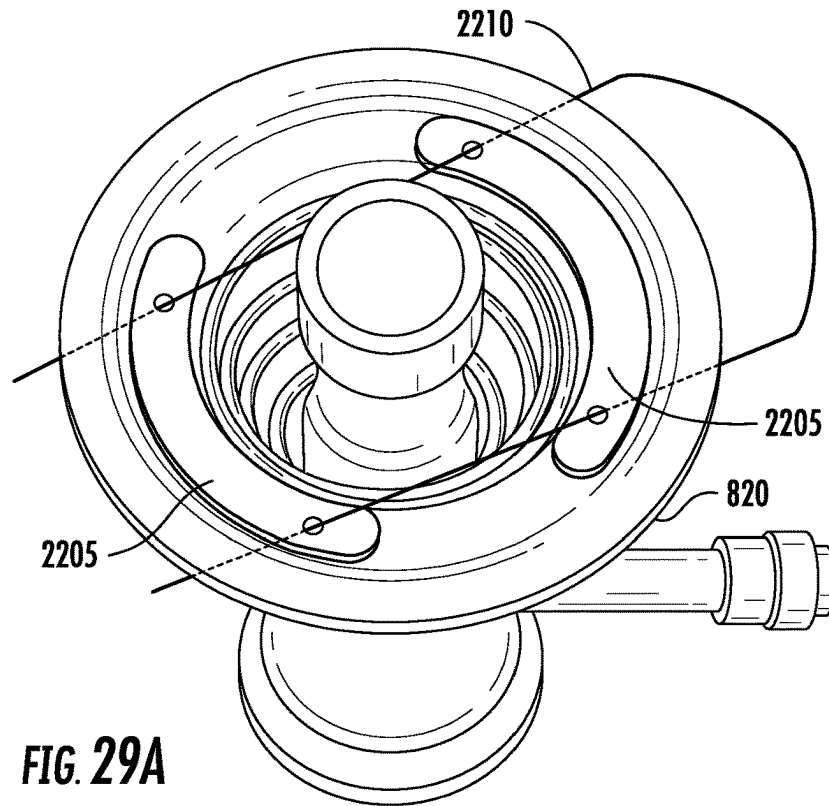


FIG. 26B







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SYSTEMS FOR IMPLANTING AND USING A CONDUIT WITHIN A TISSUE WALL

CROSS-REFERENCE TO RELATED APPLICATIONS

This application is continuation of U.S. application Ser. No. 13/982,642, which is a U.S. National Phase under 35 U.S.C. § 371 of International Application PCT/US2012/023476, filed Feb. 1, 2012, which claims priority to U.S. Provisional Application No. 61/438,370, filed Feb. 1, 2011, and U.S. Provisional Application No. 61/438,415, filed Feb. 1, 2011, each of which is incorporated herein in its entirety by reference.

FIELD OF THE INVENTION

This invention relates to devices and methods for creating, maintaining, controlling, and closing a fluid communication between opposing surfaces of a tissue wall.

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

In the human body, various organs contain fluids both in liquids and gaseous forms within tissue layers or cavities formed by tissue. These liquids may or may not be under pressure. The tissue walls around these cavities are normally designed to confine these liquids to specific areas of the body. Blood as in the heart and vasculature in order to preserve its volume and transport oxygen to tissue, gastric and intestinal fluids as in the stomach and intestines in order to transport remains of digestion out of the body after nutrients are absorbed, urine in the bladder in order to expel liquid waste from the body, fluid within the eye to maintain its shape and passage of light, are examples of such tissue fluid confining systems. During medical procedures within these cavities it is of extreme importance to control the fluid within. The most common example is cardiopulmonary bypass during open hearts surgery, although, in all procedures associated with the system above emphasis is placed on control of the fluid within the organ. For this control, sometimes extra space is required to conduct these interventions; therefore, highly invasive procedures may be required for surgery within these cavities, especially while maintaining organ function. The most complex example of these being beating heart surgery. For less invasive procedures, especially those within the vascular system, access ports or conduits which allow for fluid communication, control and tissue closure within the organ being repaired are therefore required.

The various conduit and/port devices and systems described herein may be utilized as an accompaniment with any number of surgical procedures to gain access through a variety of possible tissues. For example, the conduit devices and systems may be utilized to provide fluid access across a tissue wall, such as, but not limited to, upon establishing an AAC, upon establishing a port for inter-ventricular repairs (e.g., valve repair, valve replacement, or ablation procedures, etc.), upon establishing valved and/or open conduits (including bypass conduits) to augment native blood vessels in order to treat a variety of vascular conditions (e.g., aortic valvular disease, congestive heart failure, left ventricle outflow tract obstructions ("LVOTO"), peripheral arterial obstructions, small vessel obstructions, etc.), upon providing a conduit across a urinary bladder wall, upon providing a conduit across a gall bladder wall, upon providing a conduit into a thoracic cavity, upon providing a conduit into an

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abdominal cavity, upon providing a conduit into a cecal cavity, upon providing access into the cornea or eye walls, or upon providing access across or into any other tissue wall structures. Accordingly, the conduit devices and systems described herein may be utilized with any of the aforementioned procedures and/or to gain access through any of the aforementioned tissue walls.

Because of the importance of heart function and the complexities associated to this pressurized system, some of the most complex procedures associated with bodily fluids are performed on this organ. Several of these procedures would benefit from a conduit or port which can maintain a fluid tight seal with tissue surfaces.

Heart valve replacement is the most common open heart cardiovascular surgery procedure, currently most heart valve repair or replacement surgeries are conducted on a heart at rest under cardiopulmonary bypass through a large median sternotomy. This surgery is highly invasive, and therefore, the population that may survive such a procedure is limited to those who are strong surgical candidates. In recent years valves for minimally invasive deployment through the femoral artery or apex of the heart have been developed. These valves may be used in patients that would under other conditions be deemed non-candidates. The use of these valves may also in the future reduce complications associated with cardiopulmonary bypass and large incisions in surgical candidates. For those procedures through the apex of the heart it has been shown that bleeding complications are directly associated with 50% increased mortality, therefore, and access conduit or port which would reduce bleeding complications, decrease incision size and simplify closure would be of great benefit.

Another procedure that would benefit from a fluid tight conduit or port into the heart would be the construction of an alternative conduit between the left ventricle and the aorta (an apicoaortic conduit, or AAC). This procedure creates a double-outlet left ventricle (LV) to treat a variety of complex congenital LV outflow obstruction (fibrous tunnel obstruction, aortic annular hypoplasia, tubular hypoplasia of the ascending aorta, and patients with diffuse septal thickening, severe LV hypertrophy and a small LV cavity) as well as adult-onset aortic stenosis in patients with complicating preoperative conditions (previous failed annular augmentation procedures, previous infection, previous CABG with patent anterior internal mammary artery grafts, and a porcelain ascending aorta). However, the AAC insertion procedure has been poorly accepted, with or without cardiopulmonary bypass, has not been as technically straightforward as direct aortic valve replacement. Nonetheless, several studies have demonstrated that AAC insertion successfully lessens the LV-aortic pressure gradient, preserves or improves ventricular function and maintains normally distributed blood flow through the systemic and coronary circulation.

While there have been several techniques described, the most commonly employed method is the lateral thoracotomy approach with placement of the AAC to the descending aorta or a median sternotomy. The current techniques and technology available to perform AAC insertion were originally designed to be performed on-pump; either with an arrested or fibrillating heart, therefore, highly invasive. While off-pump cases have been described, they can be technically difficult due to the shortcomings of presently available conduits and systems for installing such conduits. For example, because existing conduits require the use of sutures to reliably secure the connector in place, it is often

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difficult for surgeons or other clinicians to insert such sutures reliably in active cardiac and/or vascular tissue.

Some devices and methods have been devised to install an AAC conduit, such as those described generally in U.S. Patent Publication No. 2006/0089707 which is hereby incorporated by reference herein in its entirety. However, these AAC conduit devices and installation systems rely on the use of a flexible flange that is inserted through a pre-defined aperture in the ventricular apex. Thus, such methods require the use of a haemostatic device (such as an occlusion balloon and/or "umbrella" device) to prevent blood loss from the aperture during installation of the AAC conduit. Other apical conduit devices are described in U.S. Pat. No. 7,846,123, which is also hereby incorporated by reference in its entirety.

Accordingly, improved beating heart fluid tight conduits for heart surgery as such described herein, are desirable.

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

Various embodiments of the present invention provide an improved system and method for the insertion of a conduit connector or port (such as an AAC conduit) that will significantly simplify the in vivo beating heart treatment of cardiac patients. The connector, port or conduit may be inserted into the beating cardiac apex or other tissue walls (such as other areas of the heart including the anterior, lateral, posterior walls of the left or right ventricle, the left or right atrium, the aortic wall, ascending, transverse, or descending, or other blood vessel walls), such that it may effectively reduce and/or negate the detrimental effects of both cardio-pulmonary by-pass (CPB) and global cardiac ischemia. Additionally, embodiments of such conduits that may be capped as ports and may be used as an access site for intravascular and intracardiac procedures such as valve repair or replacement. Various embodiments of the present invention may also provide general conduit devices (and systems for implanting) suitable for establishing fluid communication between opposing surfaces of tissue walls in a variety of applications, including the establishment of a fluid conduit through the tissue wall of a mammalian stomach or urinary bladder.

In one exemplary embodiment, a system is provided for implanting a conduit device in a tissue wall having a first surface and an opposing second surface. According to some embodiments, the system comprises an outer tube defining a guide aperture extending axially through the outer tube and an attaching device extending from a distal end of said outer tube. The attaching device is configured for advancing along a helical path at least partially through the tissue wall such that at least a portion of the attaching device becomes disposed substantially between the first surface and the opposing second surface of the tissue wall when the outer tube is rotated relative to the first surface of the tissue wall. The attaching device, in some system embodiments, comprises at least one of a helical static coil and a helical elastic spring having a sharpened distal end adapted for piercing the tissue wall as the outer tube is rotated relative to the first surface of the tissue wall. According to some such embodiments, the attaching device may define a radially-expanding helix as the attaching device extends away from the distal end of the outer tube. In such configuration the insertion of the radially expanding helix within the tissue will create inward pressure or contraction of said tissue within the circumference of the coil.

In some embodiments, the system also comprises a ring or flange operably engaged about an outer surface of the outer tube and configured for cooperating with the attaching

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device such that at least a portion of the tissue wall is secured between the attaching device and the ring so as to operably engage said outer tube with the tissue wall. In some embodiments, various system components, such as the outer tube and the ring, may be configured to conform to and/or establish a substantially fluid-tight seal with at least a portion a surface of the tissue wall. In some embodiments, the system may be configured to cooperate and/or operably engage a tissue wall comprising a substantially curved tissue wall. According to some such embodiments, the ring may comprise a frusto-conical assembly or flange configured for receiving at least a portion of the substantially curved tissue wall so as to form a substantially fluid-tight seal between the frusto-conical assembly and the tissue wall.

In some embodiments, the system further comprises an inner tube configured for insertion into the guide aperture defined by the outer tube. According to such embodiments, the inner tube defines a conduit aperture extending axially therethrough. Furthermore, in some such embodiments, the outer tube may comprise a first securing device operably engaged with a proximal end of the outer tube and the inner tube may comprise a complementary second securing device operably engaged with a proximal end of said inner tube. Thus, according to such embodiments, the second securing device may be configured for selectively operably engaging the first securing device so as to operably engage the inner tube with the outer tube to install and maintain the conduit.

In some embodiments, the system may also comprise a coring or piercing device configured for advancing through the conduit aperture defined by the inner tube and through the tissue wall to define an aperture therein. The coring or piercing device may be further configured for carrying the inner tube through the aperture such that the inner tube extends at least partially through the aperture so as to establish fluid communication between the first and second surfaces of the tissue wall. In the embodiments associated with attaching devices including radially expanding helices, inward compression of the tissue will form a sealing surface against the outer surface in the inner tube.

Various other embodiments of the present invention provide a conduit system including an outer lumen, an inner lumen, and an attaching device. In other embodiments, a multiple access port device adapted for communication with at least one of an outer lumen, an inner lumen, or an attaching device of a conduit system is provided. In yet other embodiments, a system including an inner lumen that is collapsible is provided. Means for closing a conduit system are also provided, including a plug for insertion through an attaching device and a variable radius coiled member associated with an attaching device.

Various other embodiments of the present invention include an outer lumen configured for extension and contraction, as well as universal motion absorption. Further embodiments include an outer lumen comprising a collapsible diaphragm. Still further embodiments comprise expandable delivery systems for endovascular and percutaneous applications.

The various embodiments of the present invention may thus be configured for implanting a conduit device that is adapted for providing a conduit for a medical procedure. Such procedures may include, but are not limited to: bypass; cardiac valve repair or replacement; attachment of a ventricular assist device; establishment of an apicoaortic conduit (AAC) and combinations of such procedures.

Use of this new conduit device, system, and method will significantly improve the ease and safety of conduit insertion (such as the implantation of AAC devices, for example). For

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example, various embodiments of the present invention may allow the outer tube to be securely operably engaged with the tissue wall (due at least in part to the cooperation of the attaching device and the ring) prior to the removal of a tissue core to define an aperture in the tissue wall. Thus, portions of the system disclosed herein may define a guide aperture extending axially through the outer tube for receiving a coring device that may be configured to be capable of efficiently removing and retrieving a tissue core while substantially simultaneously operably engaging an inner tube in the guide aperture so as to establish fluid communication between first and second opposing surfaces of the tissue wall. As persons of ordinary skill in the art will readily appreciate, the various embodiments of the present invention may also be used in a minimally invasive, endoscopically assisted approach.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

Having thus described various embodiments of the invention in general terms, reference will now be made to the accompanying drawings, which are not necessarily drawn to scale, and wherein:

FIG. 1 shows a non-limiting perspective view of an exemplary system for implanting a conduit device, according to one embodiment of the present invention.

FIG. 2 shows a non-limiting side cross-sectional view of an exemplary system for implanting a conduit device, according to one embodiment of the present invention.

FIG. 3 shows a non-limiting side cross-sectional view of an exemplary conduit device implanted in a tissue wall, according to one embodiment of the present invention.

FIG. 4 shows a non-limiting side view of an exemplary system for implanting a conduit device, according to one embodiment of the present invention.

FIGS. 5A-5G show an exemplary set of views of the installation of a conduit device using an exemplary system, according to one embodiment of the present invention.

FIG. 5A shows a non-limiting side cross-sectional view of an exemplary system for implanting a conduit device comprising an attaching device at least partially implanted in a tissue wall, according to one embodiment of the present invention.

FIG. 5B shows a non-limiting side cross-sectional view of an exemplary system for implanting a conduit device comprising an attaching device and a ring cooperating to secure at least a portion of the tissue wall between the attaching device and the ring so as to operably engage said outer tube with the tissue wall, according to one embodiment of the present invention.

FIG. 5C shows a non-limiting side cross-sectional view of an exemplary system for implanting a conduit device comprising a coring device carrying an inner tube configured for insertion into a guide aperture defined by the outer tube, wherein the coring device is advanced at least partially through the tissue wall so as to remove a tissue core thereof, according to one embodiment of the present invention.

FIG. 5D shows a non-limiting side cross-sectional view of an exemplary system for implanting a conduit device comprising a coring device carrying an inner tube configured for insertion into a guide aperture defined by the outer tube, wherein the coring bore defined by the coring device contains a tissue core removed from the tissue wall, according to one embodiment of the present invention.

FIG. 5E shows a non-limiting side cross-sectional view of an exemplary system for implanting a conduit device comprising a coring device carrying an inner tube configured for

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insertion into a guide aperture defined by the outer tube, wherein a piercing rod is retracted through the coring bore after removal of the tissue core such that the tissue core is retrievable via a proximal end of the coring device, according to one embodiment of the present invention.

FIG. 5F shows a non-limiting side cross-sectional view of an exemplary system for implanting a conduit device, wherein the outer tube and inner tube are installed in the tissue wall so as to establish fluid communication between the first and second surfaces of the tissue wall, according to one embodiment of the present invention.

FIG. 5G shows a non-limiting side cross-sectional view of an exemplary coring device, wherein a handle operably engaged with a proximal end of the coring device contains a tissue core removed from the tissue wall by the coring device, according to one embodiment of the present invention.

FIG. 6 shows a non-limiting side view of an exemplary coring device carrying an inner tube configured for insertion into a guide aperture defined by the outer tube, according to one embodiment of the present invention.

FIG. 7 shows a non-limiting perspective view of an exemplary conduit device comprising an attaching device comprising a helical spring, according to one embodiment of the present invention.

FIG. 8 shows a non-limiting cross-sectional view of an exemplary outer lumen for use with conduit systems described herein, according to one embodiment of the present invention.

FIG. 9 shows a non-limiting cross-sectional view of an exemplary inner lumen for use with conduit systems described herein, according to one embodiment of the present invention.

FIG. 10 shows a non-limiting cross-sectional view of an exemplary inner lumen inserted within an outer lumen for use with conduit systems described herein, according to one embodiment of the present invention.

FIG. 11 shows a non-limiting perspective view of an exemplary inner lumen inserted within an outer lumen for use with conduit systems described herein, according to one embodiment of the present invention.

FIG. 12 shows a non-limiting perspective view of an exemplary attaching device for use with conduit systems described herein, according to one embodiment of the present invention.

FIGS. 13A-13C illustrate a cross-sectional view of an example delivery system, in accordance with one embodiment of the invention with a motion absorption element.

FIGS. 14A-14B illustrate a cross-sectional view and FIG. 14C illustrates an end view of a type of valve that is a rotation collapsible diaphragm valve, consisting of two or more conduits connected by a flexible conduit, in accordance with one embodiment of the invention.

FIG. 15 shows an exemplary embodiment of an inner tube constituted by a sheath with a duckbilled valve and a collapsible valve in its proximal end.

FIG. 16 shows an exemplary embodiment of an inner tube constituted by a sheath with a duckbilled valve and a collapsible valve in its proximal end. A dilator is placed within the lumen of the sheath in order to facilitate access into the tissue.

FIGS. 17A-17F show non-limiting cross-sectional views of an exemplary method for using a conduit system described herein, according to one embodiment of the present invention.

FIGS. 18A-18B illustrate perspective and cross-sectional views of a delivery system in accordance with one embodiment of the invention.

FIGS. 19A-19L illustrate the primary steps of an over-wire procedure that can benefit from using the various components described herein.

FIG. 20 shows a non-limiting perspective view of an exemplary multiple access port device for use with conduit systems described herein, according to one embodiment of the present invention.

FIG. 21A illustrates a cross-sectional view of an example delivery system having a lumen with a steerable tip, in accordance with one embodiment of the invention. FIG. 21B. Illustrates diagrams of an example lumen with a steerable tip, in accordance with one embodiment of the invention.

FIGS. 22A-22D show non-limiting perspective views of an exemplary collapsible inner lumen for use with conduit systems described herein, according to one embodiment of the present invention.

FIGS. 23A-23C show non-limiting perspective views of exemplary collapsible inner lumens for use with conduit systems described herein, according to embodiments of the present invention.

FIGS. 24A-24B show non-limiting perspective views of an exemplary collapsible inner lumen having a flexible tip for use with conduit systems described herein, according to one embodiment of the present invention.

FIGS. 25A-25B show non-limiting perspective views of an exemplary plug for use with an attaching device described herein, according to one embodiment of the present invention.

FIGS. 26A-26B show non-limiting perspective views of an exemplary plug for use with an attaching device described herein, according to one embodiment of the present invention.

FIGS. 27A-27B show non-limiting perspective views of an exemplary delivery instrument for securing a plug to an attaching device described herein, according to one embodiment of the present invention.

FIGS. 28A-28B show non-limiting perspective views of an exemplary variable radius coiled member for use with an attaching device described herein, according to one embodiment of the present invention.

FIGS. 29A-29B show non-limiting perspective views of an exemplary attaching device including pledgets and sutures for use with conduit systems described herein, according to one embodiment of the present invention.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE INVENTION

The present inventions now will be described more fully hereinafter with reference to the accompanying drawings, in which some, but not all embodiments of the inventions are shown. Indeed, these inventions may be embodied in many different forms and should not be construed as limited to the embodiments set forth herein; rather, these embodiments are provided so that this disclosure will satisfy applicable legal requirements. Like numbers refer to like elements throughout. The singular forms "a," "an," and "the" include plural referents unless the context clearly dictates otherwise.

Certain embodiments of the invention provide devices, methods and systems for using a conduit device through a tissue wall of a patient, comprising: an outer conduit lumen; an inner conduit lumen adapted for insertion at least partially through the outer lumen; an attaching device in communi-

cation with a distal end of one of the outer lumen or the inner lumen, wherein the attaching device is adapted for securing to or inserting at least partially through a tissue wall, and a flow control mechanism configured to permit the passage of medical instruments therethrough. In certain embodiments, the outer lumen comprises one or more flow control mechanisms. In certain embodiments, the inner lumen comprises one or more flow control mechanisms.

The invention provides further embodiments, wherein the attaching device is adapted for releasably attaching to the outer lumen. In certain embodiments, a multiple access port device is provided in communication with at least one of the outer lumen or the inner lumen, wherein the multiple access port device includes a plurality of individual ports in fluid communication with the outer lumen or the inner lumen.

In certain embodiments, the invention provides a system for fluid sealed passage of a medical instrument through a conduit comprising: a medical instrument; a flow control diaphragm valve sized and shaped for receiving the medical instrument therethrough, comprising a first rigid conduit having proximal and distal ends, a flexible conduit attached in fluid communication at a distal end of the first rigid conduit, and a second rigid conduit attached in fluid communication at a distal end of the flexible conduit; wherein twisting rotation of the first rigid conduit relative to the second rigid conduit causes the flexible conduit to collapse inward and selectively move from an open configuration to a closed configuration forming a fluid-tight seal around the medical instrument when inserted therein or forming a fluid-tight closing when the medical instrument is not inserted therein. In certain embodiments, the valve further comprises a locking element to maintain the valve in the closed configuration. In certain embodiments, the system further comprises an insertion sheath connected to the flow control diaphragm valve.

In certain embodiments, the invention provides a system wherein the outer lumen comprises a selectively extendible section to lengthen or shorten the outer lumen. In certain embodiments, the outer lumen comprises telescopically extendible segments. In certain embodiments, the inner lumen is radially expandable in longitudinal cross-section. In certain embodiments, the inner lumen is collapsible and comprises an expanding member and a membrane over an outer surface of the expanding member. In certain embodiments, the inner lumen comprises a medical inserter sheath mounted on a dilator. In certain embodiments, the expandable member is expanded using at least one of: (a) mechanical force; (b) material modification; (c) structure modification; (d) electrical energy; or (e) thermal energy. In certain embodiments, the collapsible inner lumen comprises a flexible tip configured to allow selective sealing of the inner lumen.

The invention also provides a system for using a conduit device through a tissue wall of a patient, comprising: an outer lumen; an inner lumen adapted for insertion at least partially through the outer lumen; an attaching device in communication with a distal end of one of the outer lumen or the inner lumen, wherein the attaching device is adapted for securing to or inserting at least partially through a tissue wall, and in particular a cardiovascular apical cavity, wherein the outer lumen comprises a motion absorbing element to permit relative movement between the attaching device and the outer lumen. In certain embodiments, the motion absorbing element is a portion of the conduit configured as a flexible accordion segment or as two conduit segments connected by a universal ball joint.

In certain embodiments, the invention provides a system for using a conduit device through a tissue wall of a patient, particularly a cardiovascular apical cavity, comprising: an outer lumen; an inner lumen adapted for insertion at least partially through the outer lumen; an attaching device in communication with a distal end of one of the outer lumen or the inner lumen, wherein the attaching device is adapted for securing to or inserting at least partially through a tissue wall, wherein the inner lumen further comprises a steerable tip comprising a guiding tip movably mounted on a distal end of the inner lumen, wherein the tip can be guided by the user in at least two dimensions.

In certain embodiments, the guiding tip comprises a ring guide mounted on a curved deflector element, and wherein said curved deflector element is movable over a range between a proximal straightened position and a distal increasingly deflected position, such that movement to the distal deflected position causes a guide wire extending through the inner lumen and through the ring guide to be directed toward the deflected position. In using such a device, the operator can achieve two or three-dimensional steering by distally and proximally manipulating the deflector element, in combination with rotating the inner lumen and/or axially moving the inner lumen distally or proximally.

The present invention further provides a system for using a conduit device through a tissue wall of a patient, comprising: an outer lumen; an inner lumen adapted for insertion at least partially through the outer lumen; an attaching device in communication with a distal end of one of the outer lumen or the inner lumen, wherein the attaching device is adapted for securing to or inserting at least partially through a tissue wall, wherein the attaching device further comprises a plug adapted for insertion through the attaching device to substantially seal the attaching device and prevent fluid flow through the attaching device, wherein the plug further comprises an extended surface extending distally from the plug, wherein the extended surface is adapted for insertion through a puncture in the tissue wall.

In certain embodiments, the plug has a flexibly sealable distal tip for selective access to the tissue from within the inner lumen. In certain embodiments, the attaching device further comprises means for exerting an inward radial force against the tissue, wherein, when the attaching device is implanted, the inward radial force urges the tissue inward toward the extended surface of the plug. In certain embodiments, the means for exerting an inward radial force comprises at least one of: (a) a radially expanding coil; (b) a conical flange; (c) one or more arm or barb members. In certain embodiments, the plug further comprises radial threads that engage corresponding radial threads on the attaching device to seal the tissue wall.

In certain embodiments of the invention, the attaching device further comprises a variable radius coiled member adapted to exist in a relaxed state having a narrow section with an inner diameter less than other sections of the variable radius coiled member, wherein when changing from an expanded state to a relaxed state, the narrow section diameter decreases, and wherein, when the attaching device is implanted, decreasing the narrow section diameter urges the tissue in an inward radial direction. In certain embodiments, changing from the expanded state to the relaxed state results from removing a plug from the attaching device, wherein prior to removal the plug exerts an outward radial force on the narrow section expanding the diameter of the narrow section.

In certain embodiments, the invention provides a system for providing access to a cardiovascular apical cavity comprising an attaching device adapted for securing to or inserting at least partially through a cardiovascular apical tissue wall, and at least one suture disposed on the device, wherein upon release of the attaching device from the tissue wall, the at least one suture is utilized to facilitate closing of the tissue wall. In certain embodiments, the attaching device uses a helical path when attaching to the securing tissue. In certain embodiments, the attaching device further comprises at least one pledget in communication with the at least one suture, wherein, during removal of the attaching device from the tissue wall, the at least one pledget and the at least one suture are utilized to facilitate closing of the tissue wall.

In certain embodiments, the invention provides a system for using a conduit device through a tissue wall of a cardiovascular apical cavity of a patient, comprising: an inner lumen adapted for at least partial insertion through the tissue wall of the patient and providing fluid communication therebetween, wherein the inner lumen is a collapsible inner lumen. In certain embodiments, the system comprises a flow control mechanism configured to permit the passage of medical instruments therethrough, and does not require the use of a haemostatic device. In certain embodiments, the collapsible inner lumen comprises an expanding member and a membrane over the outer surface of the expanding member. In certain embodiments, the collapsible inner lumen is adapted for insertion through a trans-cutaneous or endovascular access system when in a collapsed state. In certain embodiments, the collapsible inner lumen is adapted for receiving at least one medical instrument therethrough when in an expanded state.

In certain embodiments the invention provides a device for closing a conduit system, comprising: an attaching device adapted for securing to or inserting at least partially through a tissue wall, wherein the attaching device has a passage defined therethrough to allow fluid communication through the attaching device; and a plug adapted for insertion into the passage of the attaching device to substantially seal the attaching device and prevent fluid flow through the attaching device.

In certain embodiments, the invention provides systems and methods for delivering a medical instrument through a cardiovascular apical cavity tissue wall of a patient comprising: a) securing an attaching device to the cardiovascular apical cavity tissue wall, wherein the attaching device is adapted for securing a blood flow control mechanism configured to sealably permit the passage of medical instruments therethrough; b) puncturing the tissue wall; and c) dilating the punctured tissue for delivery of the medical instrument therethrough; wherein steps a) and b) may be performed in any order.

These and many other embodiments of the invention will be readily apparent to one of skill in the art in view of the present disclosure. Although some embodiments of the invention described herein are directed to a conduit device (see FIGS. 1 and 7, for example) and a system for implanting such a device to form an apicoaortic connector (AAC) between the cardiac apex and the aorta, for example, it will be appreciated by one skilled in the art that the invention is not so limited. For example, aspects of the conduit device and systems of the present invention can also be used to establish and/or maintain conduits in a variety of tissue structures using minimally-invasive and/or invasive delivery techniques. Furthermore, while certain embodiments of the invention described herein are directed to the thoracoscopic implantation of the conduit device to form at least one port

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for establishing an AAC, it should be understood that the system and/or vascular conduit device embodiments of the present invention may be used to establish valved and/or open conduits (including bypass conduits) to augment native blood vessels in order to treat a variety of vascular conditions including, but not limited to: aortic valvular disease, congestive heart failure, left ventricle outflow tract obstructions (LVOTO), peripheral arterial obstructions, small vessel obstructions, electrical abnormalities within the heart, congenital defects within the heart, failure or aneurisms in surrounding vessels, occlusion or thrombosis in coronaries or other arteries, and/or other conditions. Furthermore, the vascular conduit device and system of the present invention may also be used to establish a port for inter-ventricular repairs such as, for example, valve repair and/or replacement or ablation procedures. Thus, the conduit device described in further detail below may also comprise a threaded fluid-tight cap, and/or a cap having at least one pawl member (for engaging corresponding ridges defined on an outer surface of the conduit device) for selectively sealing a proximal end of the conduit device such that the inner tube thereof may serve as a re-usable port for repairing and/or treating diseased portions of the cardiac anatomy. Furthermore, the conduit device and system embodiments of the present invention may also be used to implant a conduit and/or port for left ventricular assist devices.

It should be further understood that various embodiments of the conduit device described herein may also be utilized to establish fluid communication between opposing surfaces of a variety of tissue walls and/or anatomical structures. For example, in some embodiments, the conduit device and system for implanting described herein may be used to establish a conduit (and consequently fluid communication) between opposing surfaces of a wall of an anatomical structure that may include, but is not limited to: a urinary bladder; a gall bladder; a diaphragm; a thoracic cavity; an abdominal cavity; an intestinal structure; a cecal cavity; and other tissue wall structures.

It should be understood that the various conduit device components described herein (see, for example, the components shown generally throughout FIGS. 1-5) may comprise a variety of biocompatible materials including, but not limited to: stainless steel; titanium substantially rigid biocompatible polymers; elastomeric biocompatible polymers; and combinations of such materials. For example, in some embodiments, the outer tube 10, ring 30, nut 20, and inner tube 40 may comprise substantially rigid biocompatible polymers. In some embodiments, the attaching device 15 may comprise a biocompatible metal and/or metal alloy that may be embedded substantially within and/or operably engaged with an injection-molded polymer used to form the outer tube 10. Furthermore, as described further herein, some embodiments of the present invention may further comprise a sealing member 35 operably engaged with a distal end of the ring 30. In such embodiments, the sealing member 35 may comprise a substantially compliant biocompatible polymer (such as an elastomeric polymer) that may be suitable for establishing a substantially fluid tight seal between the ring 30 a surface of the tissue wall 850. Similarly, the various components of the coring device 2 described herein may also comprise a combination of biocompatible materials suitable for removing and retaining the tissue core 850a in order to define an aperture in the tissue wall 850 such that the inner tube 40 may be installed to establish fluid communication between the opposing first and second surfaces 855, 853 of the tissue wall 850 (as shown in FIG. 5A, for example).

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As shown generally in FIGS. 1-3, one embodiment of a system for implanting a conduit device 1 in a tissue wall 850 having a first surface 855 and an opposing second surface 853 may comprise an outer tube 10 defining a guide aperture extending axially therethrough and an attaching device 15 extending from a distal end of the outer tube 10. The attaching device 15 may be configured for advancing along a helical path at least partially through the tissue wall 850 such that at least a portion of the attaching device 15 becomes disposed substantially between the first surface 855 and the opposing second surface 853 of the tissue wall 850 when the outer tube 10 is rotated relative to the first surface 855 of the tissue wall 850. As shown generally in FIG. 2, the attaching device 15 may be integrally formed within the outer tube 10. For example, the attaching device 15 may, in some embodiments, be placed at least partially in a mold such that the polymeric or other components of the outer tube 10 may be molded substantially around at least a portion of the attaching device 15 (which may comprise a static coil and/or elastic spring, as described further herein). In other embodiments, the attaching device 15 may be operably engaged with at least a portion of the outer tube 10 via adhesive, RF welding, and/or other attachment methods that may be suitable for securely operably engaging the attaching device 15 to the outer tube 10.

The attaching device 15 may comprise, in some embodiments, a helical static coil having a sharpened distal end adapted for piercing the tissue wall 850 as the outer tube 10 is rotated relative to the first surface 855 of the tissue wall 850. In other embodiments, the attaching device 15 may comprise a helical elastic spring having a sharpened end adapted for piercing the tissue wall 850 as the outer tube 10 is rotated relative to the first surface 855 of the tissue wall 850. In some embodiments, as shown in FIG. 4, wherein the attaching device 15 comprises a helical spring and/or coil, the spring and/or coil may device a radially-expanding helix as the attaching device 15 extends away from the distal end of the outer tube 10. In some embodiments, wherein the attaching device comprises a conical and/or "radially-expanding" helix, the attaching device 15 may act to compress at least a portion of the tissue wall 850 radially inward and towards an outer surface of the inner tube 40 so as to establish a substantially fluid-tight seal between the outer surface of the inner tube 40 and the portion of the tissue wall 850 that has been urged radially inward. Furthermore, in some such embodiments, the radially-expanding helix of the attaching device 15 may correspond, for example, to a ring 30 comprising a frusto-conical assembly configured for receiving at least a portion of a substantially curved tissue wall 850 (see, for example, FIG. 5B) so as to form a substantially fluid-tight seal between the frusto-conical assembly of the ring 30 and the tissue wall 850.

In other embodiments, as shown generally in FIG. 7, the attaching device 15 may comprise a helical spring and/or coil having a substantially constant helical diameter as the attaching device 15 extends away from the distal end of the outer tube 10. The substantially consistent helical diameter of the attaching device 15 shown generally in FIG. 7 may be useful for operably engaging the outer tube 10 with a substantially flat tissue wall. Furthermore, as shown generally in FIG. 7, in some embodiments, the corresponding ring 30 (and the corresponding sealing member 35 that may be operably engaged therewith) may also be configured to provide a substantially flat and/or disc-shaped sealing surface that may be suitable for seating on and/or establishing a substantially fluid-tight seal with a substantially flat first

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tissue surface that may surround an aperture defined in a correspondingly flat tissue wall.

As described herein, the system may further comprise a ring 30 operably engaged about an outer surface of the outer tube 10. As shown generally in FIGS. 3 and 5B, the ring 30 may be configured for cooperating with the attaching device 15 such that at least a portion of the tissue wall 850 is secured between the attaching device 15 and the ring 30 so as to operably engage the outer tube 10 with the tissue wall 850. Some embodiments may further comprise a plurality of ridges 11 and/or threads disposed on the outer surface of the outer tube 10. According to such embodiments, the ring 30 may comprise at least one deformable pawl member configured for releasably engaging the plurality of ridges 11 disposed on the outer surface of the outer tube 10. Other embodiments (as shown generally in FIG. 2, for example), may also further comprise threading 11 on at least a portion of the outside surface of the outer tube 10 and corresponding threading on at least a portion of an inside surface of the ring 30. The threading 11 (and corresponding threading on the inner surface of the ring 30) may be being configured to cooperate for axially securing the ring 30 relative to the outer tube 10.

As shown generally in FIGS. 5A-5B, some embodiments may further comprise a nut 20 operably engaged about an outer surface of the outer tube 10 and proximal to the ring 30. According to such embodiments, the nut 20 may comprise threading on at least a portion on an inside surface of the nut 20. The threading disposed on the inside surface of the nut 20 may be configured for cooperating with the threading 11 on at least a portion of the outside surface of the outer tube 11 for axially securing the nut 20 relative to the outer tube 10 and the adjacent ring 20. As shown in FIGS. 5A-5B, the nut 20 may be configured for cooperating with the ring 30 to advance the ring 30 towards the distal end of the outer tube 10. As shown generally in FIGS. 5A-5B, the attaching device 15 may provide counter-traction so as to allow for the rotation (and resulting advancement) of the nut 20 (and the ring 30 disposed distally thereto) such that rotation of the nut 20 (and the corresponding movement of the ring 30 toward the first tissue surface 855) may draw at least a portion of the tissue wall 850 into engagement with an inner surface of the ring 30 such that the conduit device 1 (and particularly the outer tube 10 thereof) is stabilized, engaged in a substantially fluid tight seal, and/or operably engaged with respect to the tissue wall 850 prior to the use of a coring device 2 for removing a tissue core 850a via the guide aperture defined axially through the outer tube 10, as shown in FIGS. 5C and 5D.

In order to ensure that the ring 30 forms a substantially fluid-tight seal with the first surface 855 of the tissue wall 850 about the aperture defined therein, some embodiments (as shown in FIG. 1, for example) may further comprise a sealing member 35 operably engaged with a distal end of the ring 30. The sealing member 35 may comprise, for example, a gasket or other elastomeric component configured for establishing a substantially fluid tight seal between the ring 30 and the first surface 855 of the tissue wall 855. As described herein, some embodiments of the present invention may be configured for establishing fluid communication between the opposing sides of the walls of a mammalian heart (such as the ventricular apex, for example). In such embodiments, the conduit device 1 may be required to be operably engaged with a substantially curved tissue wall 850 (see FIG. 5A, for example). In such embodiments, the ring 30 may comprise a frusto-conical assembly configured for receiving at least a portion of the substantially curved tissue

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wall 850 so as to form a substantially fluid-tight seal between the frusto-conical assembly of the ring 30 and the tissue wall 850.

As shown, for example, in FIG. 5B, in some embodiments, the ring 30 may be urged towards a distal end of the outer tube 10 by the rotation of a nut 20 about threading 11 disposed on an outer surface of the outer tube 10. Thus, according to some such embodiments, the cooperation of the attaching device 15 (which may comprise a piercing helical spring and/or coil, for example) with the ring 30 may act to draw at least a portion of the curved tissue wall 850 into the frusto-conical assembly of the ring 30 such that a substantially fluid-tight seal may be formed and maintained between the frusto-conical assembly of the ring 30 and the tissue wall 850.

In some conduit device 1 embodiments, as shown generally in FIG. 2, the ring 30 may comprise a seal testing aperture 36 that may allow a clinician to selectively test whether or not a substantially fluid-tight seal has been established between the ring 30 and the first surface 855 of the tissue wall 850 when the ring 30 is moved towards the distal end of the outer tube 10 and into engagement with the tissue wall 850. For example, a clinician may operably engage a fluid source (such as a saline solution bag) with the seal testing aperture 36 (which may comprises a luer lock connector or other connector for operably engaging the fluid source) and introducing a fluid via seal testing aperture 36 and observing the interface between the ring 30 and the first surface 855 of the tissue wall 850 to see if any substantial amount of fluid emerges. If no fluid is readily visible, a clinician may be reasonably assured that the seal formed between the ring 30 and the tissue wall 850 is substantially fluid-tight. By assessing the seal formed between the ring 30 and the tissue wall 850, a clinician may determine if it is medically safe to introduce the coring device 2 via the guide conduit defined in the outer tube 10 (i.e. determine if blood loss is likely to occur between the ring 30 and the first surface 855 of the tissue wall 850 when the coring device 2 (and the coring cylinder 65 thereof) is advanced through the tissue wall 850 as shown in FIG. 5C).

In some embodiments, the seal testing aperture 36 may also serve an alternative function for rotationally securing the ring 30 relative to and the first surface 855 of the tissue wall 850. For example, a clinician may insert a needle and/or other elongate spike through the seal testing aperture 36 defined in the ring 30 and substantially into the tissue wall 850. The interaction of the needle and/or spike with the ring 30 (via the seal testing aperture 36) and the tissue wall 850 may thus reduce a chance that the ring 30 (and the helical attaching device 15 extending from the outer tube 10) are rotatable relative to the tissue wall 850 such that the ring 30 and the helical attaching device 15 may be less prone to "backing out" of the tissue wall 850 once the seal is established between the ring 30 and the first surface 855 of the tissue wall 850.

In some additional embodiments, as shown generally in FIG. 7, the ring 30 (and/or the sealing member 35 that may be operably engaged therewith) may define a substantially flat and/or disc-shaped annular sealing surface that may be configured for establishing a substantially fluid-tight seal between the ring 30 and a substantially flat first tissue surface 855 about an aperture defined in the tissue wall 850.

Referring to FIG. 5C, for example, some embodiments may further comprise an inner tube 40 defining a conduit aperture extending axially therethrough. The inner tube 40 may be configured for insertion into the guide aperture defined by the outer tube 10. In some embodiments, as

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shown in FIG. 6, the inner tube 40 may be carried by a coring device 2 that may be advanced through the guide aperture defined by the outer tube 10 and configured for substantially simultaneously removing a tissue core 850a to define an aperture in the tissue wall 850 and operably engaging the inner tube 40 with the outer tube 10 so as to establish and/or maintain a reliable and engageable pathway for fluid communication between the first and second surfaces 855, 853 of the tissue wall 850. In order to facilitate the secure engagement of the outer tube 10 with the inner tube 40, some conduit device 1 embodiments may comprise a first securing device 13 operably engaged with a proximal end of the outer tube 10 and a complementary second securing device 43 operably engaged with a proximal end of the inner tube 40. According to such embodiments, as shown generally in FIG. 2, the second securing device 43 may be configured for selectively operably engaging the first securing device 13 so as to operably engage the inner tube 40 with the outer tube 10. As shown generally in FIG. 6, the second securing device 43 may comprise one or more deformable pawls configured for selectively operably engaging the first securing device 13 as shown in FIG. 2 (wherein the first securing device 13 comprises one or more ridges disposed on a proximal portion of the outer surface of the outer tube 10).

It is appreciated that the conduit device embodiments described herein are only example conduit device configurations and that many other device configurations may be utilized with various system components described. For example, a conduit device may not necessarily require an attaching device, an inner tube, an outer tube, and/or a coring member, as described, but may simply include a tube body and an attaching device, or may be delivered utilizing other delivery instruments and/or other techniques. Thus, additional aspects of the system and device components may be utilized with any number of conduit device configurations, as generally described below.

Delivery Techniques

As shown generally in FIG. 6, some system embodiments for installing a conduit device 1 may further comprise a coring device 2 configured for advancing through the conduit aperture defined by the inner tube 40 and through the tissue wall 850 to define an aperture therein by removing a tissue core 850a (see FIG. 5D, for example, showing the coring device 2 removing a tissue core 850a and collecting the tissue core 850a in a coring bore defined by a coring cylinder 65. As shown generally in FIGS. 5C and 6, the coring device 2 may be further configured for carrying the inner tube 40 through the aperture such that the inner tube 40 extends at least partially through the aperture (see FIG. 5F, for example) so as to establish fluid communication between the first 855 and second 853 surfaces of the tissue wall 850. In some embodiments, as shown in the cross-sectional side view of FIG. 5D, the coring device 2 (and/or the coring cylinder 65 thereof) defines a coring bore extending axially therethrough configured for receiving the tissue core 850a removed by the coring cylinder 65.

As shown in FIGS. 5C-5E, the coring device 2 may also comprise a piercing rod 60 slidably advancable and retractable within the coring bore defined by the coring device 2. The piercing rod 60 may further comprise a retrieval device 61 operably engaged with a distal end thereof and configured for axially retaining the tissue core 850a removed by the coring cylinder 65. In various embodiments, the retrieval device 61 may include, but is not limited to: a barb; a hook; corkscrew; expandable balloon; a self-expanding structure; and/or other device configured for initially piercing the

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tissue wall 850 so as to be capable of retrieving the tissue core 850a removed by the coring device 2 as described further herein. As shown generally in FIG. 5C, the piercing rod 60 may be configured for advancing so as to pierce the tissue wall 850 prior to removal of the tissue core 850a (i.e. prior to the advancement of the coring cylinder 65 through the tissue wall 850). Furthermore, as shown generally in FIG. 5E, the piercing rod 60 may be further configured for retracting after removal of the tissue core 850a such that the tissue core 850a is retrievable via a proximal end of the coring device 2. In some system embodiments for installing a conduit device 1, the coring device 2 may further comprise a handle 63 operably engaged with a proximal end of the coring device 2 (and/or a proximal end of the coring cylinder 65). According to such embodiments, as shown generally in FIG. 6, the handle 63 may define a tissue core chamber 62 in communication with the coring bore defined by the coring cylinder 65. As shown in FIG. 5E, the tissue core chamber 62 may thus be configured for receiving the tissue core 850a retrieved by retraction of the piercing rod 60 (and the retrieval device 61 operably engaged with a distal end thereof). In order to allow a clinician to positively identify and/or confirm the removal and retraction of the tissue core 850a, in some system embodiments at least a portion of the handle 65 may be provided with a substantially transparent material (such as a transparent polycarbonate polymer, for example) such that the tissue core 850a received by the tissue core chamber 62 may be visible (to a clinician or an endoscopic imaging device, for example) from a position substantially outside the handle 63.

FIGS. 5A-5G illustrate the various steps involved in the utilization of one embodiment of the system of the present invention for installing a conduit device 1 in a tissue wall 850 (such as the ventricular apex). It should be understood that various embodiments of the present invention may be utilized for installing the conduit device 1 for use in medical procedures that may include, but are not limited to: bypass; cardiac valve repair or replacement; attachment of a ventricular assist device; and combinations of such procedures. As shown in FIG. 5A, an exemplary process for installing a conduit device 1 may begin with the implantation of the attaching device 15 in the tissue wall 850. As described herein, the attaching device 15 may comprise a helical spring and/or coil configured for advancing along a helical path at least partially through the tissue wall 850 such that at least a portion of the attaching device 850 becomes disposed substantially between the first surface 855 and the opposing second surface 853 of the tissue wall 850 when the outer tube 10 is rotated relative to the first surface 855 of the tissue wall 850. In some embodiments, the attaching device 15 may be sized such that the axial length of the attaching device 15 does not extend substantially distal to the second surface 853 of the tissue wall 850.

In some embodiments, wherein the attaching device comprises a conical and/or "radially-expanding" helix, the attaching device 15 may act to compress at least a portion of the tissue wall 850 radially inward and towards an outer surface of the inner tube 40 so as to establish a substantially fluid-tight seal between the outer surface of the inner tube 40 and the portion of the tissue wall 850 that has been urged radially inward by the conical and/or radially-expanding helix of the attaching device 15. Furthermore, in embodiments wherein the attaching device 15 comprises a conical and/or "radially-expanding" helix, the attaching device 15 may act to compress at least a portion of the tissue wall 850 radially inward such that the portion of the tissue wall 850 may be more readily received by ring 30 (which may

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comprise a frusto-conical structure configured for receiving the compressed portion of the tissue wall **850**). As shown in FIG. 5B, the conduit device **1** installation process may continue with the advancement and/or tightening of the ring **30** towards a distal end of the outer tube **10**. As described herein, some conduit device **1** embodiments of the present invention may comprise a nut **20** operably engaged about an outer surface of the outer tube **10** proximal to the ring **30**. In some such embodiments, the nut **20** may comprise threading on at least a portion on an inside surface thereof, wherein the threading is configured for cooperating with the threading **11** on at least a portion of the outside surface of the outer tube **10**. The nut **20** may thus be configured to cooperate with the ring **30** to advance the ring **30** towards the distal end of the outer tube **10**, and therefore into contact with the first surface **855** of the tissue wall **850**. As shown generally in FIG. 5B, once the nut **20** and ring **30** are advanced distally (which may be accomplished by hand-tightening the nut **20**), the ring **30** may cooperate with the attaching device **15** such that at least a portion of the tissue wall **850** is secured between the attaching device **15** and the ring **30** so as to securely operably engage the outer tube **10** with the tissue wall **850**.

As shown in FIG. 5C, once the outer tube **10** is stabilized relative to the tissue wall **850**, a coring device **2** (which, in some embodiments, as shown in FIG. 6, may be configured for carrying an inner tube **40**), may be inserted into the guide aperture defined axially within the outer tube **10**. As described herein with respect to FIG. 6, the coring device **2** may comprise a coring cylinder **65** configured for advancing through the conduit aperture defined by the inner tube **40** and through the tissue wall **850** to define an aperture therein by removing a tissue core **850a** (see FIG. 5D, for example). Referring again to FIG. 5C, some embodiments may further comprise a piercing rod **60** slidably advancable and retractable within the coring bore defined by the coring cylinder **65**. The piercing rod **60** may comprise, in some embodiments, an elongate proximal end that may be manipulated (i.e. extended and/or retracted) by a clinician in order to initially pierce the tissue wall **850** and/or retract the tissue core **850a** removed therefrom (as described further herein). As shown in FIGS. 5D and 5E, the piercing rod **60** may further comprise a retrieval device **61** operably engaged with a distal end thereof and configured for axially retaining the tissue core **850a** removed by the coring cylinder **65**. The piercing rod **60** may be configured for advancing so as to pierce the tissue wall **850** prior to removal of the tissue core **850a** (i.e. prior to advancement of the coring cylinder **65**). Furthermore, as shown in FIG. 5E, the piercing rod **60** may be further configured for retracting after removal of the tissue core **850a** such that the tissue core **850a** is retrievable via a proximal end of the coring device **2**.

As shown in FIGS. 5D and 6, the coring device **2** may be further configured for carrying the inner tube **40** through the aperture such that the inner tube **40** extends at least partially through the aperture so as to establish fluid communication between the first and second surfaces **855**, **853** of the tissue wall **850** (see also, FIG. 3, for example). As described herein, with respect to various conduit device **1** embodiments of the present invention the outer tube **10** may comprise a first securing device **13** operably engaged with a proximal end thereof and the inner tube **40** (carried, for example, by the coring device **2** into position relative to the outer tube **10**) may comprise a complementary second securing device **43** operably engaged with a proximal end thereof. As shown generally in FIG. 3, the second securing device **43** (which may comprise a deformable pawl, for example) may be configured for selectively operably engag-

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ing the first securing device **13** (which may comprise a complementary at least one ridge disposed on an outer surface of the outer tube **10**) so as to positively and securely operably engage the inner tube **40** with the outer tube **10**.

Referring again to FIG. 5E, the coring device **2** may, in some embodiments, comprise a handle **63** operably engaged with a proximal end of the coring device **2**. As described herein, the handle **63** may define a tissue core chamber **62** in communication with the coring bore defined, for example, by the coring cylinder **65**. The tissue core chamber **62** may thus be configured for receiving the tissue core **850a** retrieved by retraction of the piercing rod **60** (and the retrieval device **61** operably engaged with a distal end thereof). In some embodiments, the coring device **2** may also define a fill aperture configured for operably engaging a source of saline solution or other fluid that may be used to substantially flood the coring bore defined by the coring cylinder **65** and the tissue core chamber **62** so as to reduce the chance of introducing gas bubbles (i.e. air bubbles) into an interior chamber defined by the tissue wall **850** when the coring device **2** is introduced via the outer tube **10**.

As described generally herein with regard to the various system embodiments of the present invention, the conduit device **1** installation process may advantageously allow a clinician to visually confirm that the tissue core **850a** removed by the coring cylinder **65** has been completely and cleanly removed from the aperture defined in the tissue wall **850**. For example, in some embodiments, at least a portion of the handle **63** may comprise a transparent material such that the tissue core **850a** received within the tissue core chamber **62** may be directly visible by a clinician and/or an endoscopic imaging device from a position substantially outside the handle **63**. As shown in FIGS. 5F and 5G, after the coring device **2** (and the tissue core **850a** retained in the handle **63** thereof) is retracted and removed from the inner tube **40**, a clamp **C** may be applied to a proximal end of a graft portion that may be operably engaged with the inner tube **40** of the conduit device **1**. In other embodiments, the inner tube **40** may comprise one or more ridges defined on an outer surface of the proximal end thereof that may be configured for receiving a deformable cap or other cover for temporarily and/or semi-permanently closing the aperture defined by the installed conduit device **1**. As described herein, the conduit device **1** may be utilized as a portion of a two-part bypass system that may comprise another corresponding conduit device **1** installed in a tissue wall **850** defining a wall of the mammalian aorta, for example. The two corresponding conduit devices **1** may then be operably engaged with one another via a valve device so as to form an apicoaortic connection (AAC) in order to bypass, for example, a faulty valve or other mechanical defect present in a subject's cardiac anatomy.

FIGS. 8-11 illustrate various perspective and cross-sectional views of an example conduit delivery instrument, which includes an inner lumen **805** and an outer lumen **810** which is adapted to carry the inner lumen **805** therethrough. FIG. 8 illustrates a cross-sectional view of an inner lumen **805**, FIG. 9 illustrates a cross sectional view of an outer lumen **810**, while FIGS. 10 and 11 illustrate cross-sectional and perspective views of the inner lumen **805** inserted into the outer lumen **810**, according to one embodiment.

With reference to FIG. 8, the inner lumen **805** may generally be an elongated tube member having a passage defined therethrough that allows instruments or other therapy to be delivered through the inner lumen **805** and into the cavity or other side of a tissue wall. The inner lumen **805** may serve to provide access at least partially through a tissue

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wall, such as may be achieved by the inner tube **40** of the conduit device described with reference to FIGS. 1-5G. At or near the proximal end of the inner lumen **805**, at least one flow control mechanism **807** may be provided to limit fluid flow when the inner lumen **805** is inserted into the outer lumen **810** and in fluid contact with bodily fluid during use. As shown in FIG. 8, one embodiment of a flow control mechanism **807** may be a clamp valve having a pliable material forming at least a portion of the conduit and adaptable to receive a clamping instrument (e.g., surgical clamp, hemostat, etc.), such as is shown with reference to FIG. 5F. In another embodiment, the clamp valve of the flow control mechanism **807** may be in operable communication with an integrated clamp that can be selectively actuated by an operator, and which does not require the use of an additional instrument to close the clamp valve.

Other flow control mechanisms may be utilized, such as, but not limited to, duck bill valves, globe valves, single or multiple leaflet valves, breast pump valves, diaphragm valves, and the like. For example, the delivery system with an inner lumen **100** is shown in FIG. 13 as including a one-way valve **130**, such as a duck-bill valve, positioned intermediately along the length of the delivery system **100**. This one-way valve **130** may allow passage of a lumen and/or instrument through the valve **130**, but prevent fluid from flowing proximally from the valve **130**. It is appreciated that one or more other valve mechanisms can be included, such as, but not limited to, globe valves, single or multiple leaflet valves, breast pump valves, diaphragm valves, and the like. These valves may be used by themselves or in combination. It is further appreciated that the placement of the one-way valve **130**, or other valves included, may be at one or more different locations along the length of the delivery system **100**.

According to one embodiment, an additional diaphragm valve may be included at or near the proximal end of the delivery system **100**. FIGS. 14A-14C illustrate an example diaphragm valve **135**, according to one embodiment. A diaphragm valve **135** may, alone or in combination with other valves, improve blood loss control and provide easy access with a lumen and/or instrument (or any other device) through the delivery system. An example diaphragm valve **135** may be a rotation collapsible diaphragm valve, diagrammatically represented in FIGS. 14A-14B, which consists of at least two aligned conduits **205**, **210** connected by a flexible conduit **215**. According to one embodiment, the two aligned conduits **205**, **210** may further include alignment arms or collars **220** to maintain alignment and relative position and distance of the conduits **205**, **210** with respect to each other. A flexible conduit **215** may be formed from any suitable pliable material having elastic or viscoelastic properties and allowing deformation thereof.

In use, rotation of a first conduit **205** with respect the second conduit **210** causes the flexible conduit **215** to twist and collapse within itself, therefore reducing inner diameter of the passage therethrough. In one embodiment, complete closure of the passage may be achieved by increased turning of the conduits **205**, **210** relative to each other. In another embodiment, if an instrument, lumen, or other medical instrument is inserted through the conduit, then the flexible conduit **215** may close onto the instrument, lumen, or other device and create a fluid seal therearound.

With reference to FIG. 15 and FIG. 16, an embodiment with an inner tube represented by a medical sheath **3100**, which may be flexible, semi-flexible or rigid may be used to establish fluid communication between the tissue walls. The proximal end of the sheath may have one or multiple valves

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including but not limited to a duckbilled valve **3400** and/or a collapsible diaphragm valve **3500** of FIG. 15. In order to facilitate the insertion of a medical sheath **3200**, it may be delivered mounted on a dilator **3210** with an axial orifice for a guidewire **3200** as shown in FIG. 16.

With reference to FIG. 9, an outer lumen **810** is also shown as a generally elongated tube member having a passage **812** defined therethrough. The passage **812** is shaped and sized having an inner radius large enough to accept at least a portion of the outer lumen **810**. According to one embodiment, the distal end of the outer lumen **810** can be adapted to receive an attaching device **820**, such as a coiled attaching device **15** having an outer flange **30**, as shown in FIG. 12 and described above with reference to FIGS. 1-5G, or any other attaching means. In the embodiment shown by FIG. 9, the distal end of the outer lumen **810** includes threads **814** to threadably receive an attaching device **820**. The threads **814** are shown here formed in an inner surface; though they may be formed on another portion of the lumen **810**, as desired and depending upon the design and configuration of the attaching device **820**. According to other embodiments, instead of threads, the distal end may include other attachment means for securing an attaching device **820** to the outer lumen **810**, such as, but not limited to, mechanical means, such as tabs, pins, screws, clamps, threads, hooks, interference fit, friction fit, etc., magnetic means, chemically bonded, and the like. According to various embodiments, the attaching device **820** may be releasably or permanently secured. At the proximate end of the multi-valve port threads **815** or other releasable locking mechanism may be used to attach a cap or a multiple access port device to the outer lumen **81**.

According to one embodiment shown in FIG. 13A, a dual action mechanism **125** may be provided at or near the distal end of the conduit delivery system **100** to release the attaching device after the procedure is completed. In this embodiment, two simple but distinct motions allow releasing the delivery system **100** from the attaching device **120** after being capped. This dual action system may be conformed from one or multiple of the means described above or one or multiple of this means and using an actuator such as a button, lever or lock. Therefore, initial action on the actuator will then allow for secondary action which will release the attaching device from the delivery system. Such a dual action system will increase the security when using the device in medical procedures.

As shown in FIG. 9, the outer lumen **810** also may optionally include at least one flow control mechanism **816**. According to the embodiment, the flow control mechanism **816** is provided at or near the proximal end of the outer lumen **810** for controlling fluid flow therethrough, such as prior to insertion of the inner lumen **805** and/or after removal of the inner lumen **805**. According to the embodiment shown, the flow control mechanism **816** is a clamp valve, such as described with reference to the inner lumen **805**. However, it is appreciated that, according to other embodiments, other flow control mechanisms may be utilized, such as, but not limited to, duck bill valves, globe valves, single or multiple leaflet valves, breast pump valves, diaphragm valves, and the like. Moreover, in some embodiments, the outer lumen **810** may be referred to as a multi-valved port, indicating that an outer lumen **810** may have multiple valves for controlling fluid flow therethrough, which may be the same or different types of valves.

FIGS. 10-11 show the inner lumen **805** inserted within the outer lumen **810**, and an attaching device **820**. It is appreciated, however, that according to other embodiments the

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outer lumen **810** can be utilized with a different attaching device, such as one including hooks, barbs, wires, pins, arms, sutures, suction forces, a flange, any combination thereof, and the like. Multiple of these attaching devices may be used in conjunctions in the system in order to improve anchoring to the tissue. In some preferred embodiments multiple coils may be used in conjunction, these coils may be or may not be centered on the same rotational axis. In other embodiments both suction and a coil may be used to attach the system to the tissue surface. As shown by FIG. **10**, when the inner lumen **805** is inserted through the outer lumen **810**, at least a portion of the distal end of the inner lumen **805** may extend distally from the outer lumen **810**, providing access at least partially through a tissue wall to which the attaching device will be secured. The interaction between the different components of the system, such as the fit of the inner lumen **805** within the outer lumen **810** and the various flow control mechanisms **807**, **816**, provide beneficial sealing of the system to prevent blood or other fluid loss during use. Although not shown, one or more de-airing orifices, as are known, may be included with the inner lumen **805** and/or the outer lumen **810** to prevent introducing air into the patient's vasculature during use.

According to one embodiment shown in FIG. **13A**, a motion absorption element **115** may be utilized to allow for movement of the distal end (e.g., the attaching device **120**) of the delivery system **100** in all directions, or universally, such as radially and laterally. Thus, the motion absorption element **115** compensates for the movement of the tissue, such as a beating heart or other organ, while holding the outer lumen statically in place, reducing the risk of tearing the tissue. According to one embodiment, as shown in FIG. **13A**, the motion absorption element **115** may be configured as an expandable tube, such as tube having an accordion-type shape, allowing for movement at the motion absorption element **115**. In other embodiments, the motion absorption element **115** may be constructed from a pliable material having elastic or viscoelastic properties that compensate for the motion of the tissue.

In yet another embodiment, such as shown in FIG. **13C**, a jointed element, such as a universal-type joint or a socket-type joint **116**, can be utilized to be a motion absorption element to compensate for motion or rotation of the distal end of the delivery system **100** when anchored onto the tissue. The universal joint **116** may also be accompanied but a flexible section **117** is some cases where the joint is considered to be rigid axially. The motion absorption element, however, should allow for the transfer of torque and/or other rotational or translational force applied to the proximal end of the delivery system **100**, such as when inserting an attaching device **120** through the tissue, or removing an attaching device **120**.

According to the embodiment such as shown in FIGS. **13A** and **13B**, the delivery system may include an outer lumen with an extendable body section that allows for increasing or decreasing the overall length of the outer lumen. An extendable body section **110** thus allows adjusting the overall length of the delivery system **100** and controlling the distance from the tissue surface to the proximal end of the delivery system **100**. Adjusting the length advantageously allows treating patients having different weights, body sizes, and anatomies. According to various embodiments, the extendable body section **110** may be, but is not limited to, an extendible tube **112** as shown in FIG. **13B**, a series of telescopic conduits as shown in FIG. **13A**, threaded conduits, and the like. For example, according to one embodiment, the extendable body section **110**

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may include multiple telescoping tubular members in cooperative communication and adapted for selective extension and retraction. The telescoping tubular members may be in sliding communication, wherein a translational force applied to at least one of the tubular members cause extension or retraction of the extendable body section **110**.

According to another embodiment, the extendable body section may include multiple tubular members in threaded communication. For example, an outer tubular member may have threads formed on an inner surface and an inner tubular member may have complementary threads formed on an outer surface. Turning one of the outer or inner tubular member in a first direction with respect to the other tubular member will thus cause the extendable body section to expand in length and turning one of the outer or inner tubular member in a second direction opposite the first direction with respect to the other tubular member will thus cause the extendable body section to retract in length. In a further example, the extendable body can be constructed from an accordion-like corrugated or extendible tube that may change its axial length by changing the angular relations between the different segments of the tube.

It is appreciated that, according to various embodiments, the extendable body section **110** may only comprise a portion of the outer lumen **105**, whereas another portion of the outer lumen **105** may have a fixed length or is not otherwise adjustable. Moreover, it is appreciated that other aspects of the delivery system **100** may likewise include adjustable members to adjust relative lengths, such as an inner lumen, conduit, or instrument insertable through the outer lumen **105**.

FIGS. **17A-17F** show various detailed views of an example use providing access through a tissue wall, according to one embodiment. At FIG. **17A**, an attaching device **820** secured to an outer lumen **810** is delivered to the surface of the tissue wall (not shown) through a small incision. The attaching device **820** can use an anchoring mechanism, such as, but not limited to, a coil to releasably attach to the tissue wall. According to one embodiment, a flange of the attaching device **820** may also facilitate urging tissue radially inwards to improve attachment of the attaching device **820** and sealing of the tissue around the inner lumen **805** to be delivered. In some embodiment this flange may have internal fluid communications or channels which could allow for suction therethrough and aid in the attachment of the device to the tissue surface.

At FIG. **17B**, a piercing or cutting instrument **825** can optionally be utilized to perforate the tissue wall through the approximate center of the attaching device **820**, in a manner similar to that described with reference to FIG. **5C**. According to one embodiment, the piercing element **825** is attached to the distal end of the inner lumen **805** (e.g., releasably attached) and thus can be delivered through the passage of the outer lumen **810**. According to one embodiment, the piercing element **825** may have a sharp tine or other member utilized to perforate the tissue. The piercing element **825** may optionally include an inner passage or bore to allow passing the piercing element **825** over a guide wire. In one embodiment, a sharpened boring element can be used to perforate the tissue wall and create a tissue plug, which defines the approximate size of the puncture or access site through the tissue wall. Additionally, to retract any loose tissue, an attaching element can be utilized to grasp the tissue which is being cut and/or released by the cutting tool. This attaching element may be a coil, a clamp, jaws, a series of hooks, barbs, pins, expanding/collapsing surfaces, and the like.

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At FIG. 17C, after the piercing element **825** is removed from the proximal end of the outer lumen **810** and detached from the distal end of the inner lumen **805**, the inner lumen **805** is re-inserted through the passage of the outer lumen **810**, to provide communication through the tissue wall. While maintaining control of blood flow, such as by utilizing the flow control mechanisms described above, different medical instruments or devices may be used through the inner lumen **805** to treat, provide therapy, and/or diagnose conditions within the anatomical structure, as shown in FIG. 17D. After providing the desired procedure, therapy or diagnosis, the inner lumen **805** may be retrieved and a plug or other closure means is provided to the attaching device **820**, as shown in FIG. 17E. At FIG. 17F, after having closed the attaching device **820** (or otherwise sealed the tissue), the outer lumen is removed from the attaching device **820** and the patient, leaving the attaching device **820** secured to the tissue wall. It is appreciated that, according to various embodiments, the attaching device **820** may be left implanted for a period of time or may be removed upon permanently sealing the tissue wall.

FIGS. 18A-18B illustrate schematic and cross-sectional views of a delivery system **100** that may be utilized with a guide wire, in accordance with one embodiment of the invention. Therefore, according to this embodiment, the delivery system **100** may be utilized as an over-the-wire system, which includes a guide wire (not shown), a dilator **510**, in addition to the other delivery system **100** components, such as are described below.

In use, a guide wire is initially inserted into the ventricle, followed by a dilator **510** that carries the inner lumen **515**. Thus, the dilator **510** includes an inner passage **505** that is adapted to pass over the guide wire. According to this embodiment, which may differ from various other embodiments, the inner lumen **515** can be delivered over the dilator **510** and inserted into the tissue wall prior to securing the attaching device **120** thereto. Upon positioning the inner lumen **515** through the tissue wall as desired, the outer lumen **520** carrying the attaching device **120** is advanced over the inner lumen **515** and secured to the tissue wall via the attaching device **120** (such as according to any means described herein or in the referenced patents or applications). According to one embodiment, a flow control mechanism, such as a collapsible diaphragm **135**, as described with reference to FIGS. 14A-14C, may be actuated to seal the inner lumen **515** within the outer lumen **520**. After positioning the outer lumen **520**, the dilator **510** is retrieved allowing fluid communication through the tissue wall (e.g., into a ventricle, etc.). The guide wire may be retrieved at this stage, or at a previous stage such as after positioning the dilator **510**.

Blood or other fluid flow through the inner lumen **515** may be controlled by a flow control mechanism, such as a duck bill valve **525** (or other valve mechanism, as described herein) at or near the proximal end of the inner lumen **515**. The duck bill valve **525**, or other valve mechanism, may therefore allow selective delivery of instruments or other therapeutic means through the inner lumen **515**, while still limiting fluid loss through the proximal end of the inner lumen **515**. Upon completion of the procedure, the inner lumen **515** may be retrieved and either the attaching device **120** or the tissue wall may be closed. For example, a small coil or other device for urging the tissue in an inward radial direction may be utilized to seal the tissue wall or a plug, cap, or other closure device may be secured to the attaching device **120** if the attaching device is left implanted. After removal of the inner lumen **515**, the collapsible diaphragm

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135 (or other flow control mechanism) may be utilized to limit or prevent fluid flow proximally through the outer lumen **510**. Thus, a coil or other closure device delivery instrument may be inserted through the outer lumen **510** while the collapsible diaphragm **135** still serves to limit blood or other fluid flow through the outer lumen **510** while sealing the tissue wall or cap. It is appreciated that the delivery system **100** illustrated and described with reference to FIGS. 18A-18B may also include any other features, such as additional flow control mechanisms (e.g., globe valves, single or multiple leaflet valves, breast pump valves, diaphragm valves, rubber membranes, etc.), a steerable lumen tip, an extendable body section, a motion absorption element, a de-airing orifice, different attaching device configurations, or other features described herein or in the referenced patents and applications.

FIGS. 19A-19L show the main steps of a preferred "over the wire" procedure using the different components of the system described above. FIG. 19A illustrates a guide wire **1200** inserted in the access site of the tissue wall **850**. FIG. 19B illustrates using the guide wire **1200** where the sheath **1215** is inserted riding on a dilator **1210**. FIG. 19C illustrates a port **1220** anchored onto the ventricle by rotationally inserting the primary/anchoring coil **1212**. FIG. 19D illustrates closure of the iris diaphragm valve **1225** stabilizing the sheath **1215** with respect to the conduit. FIG. 19E illustrates a dilator and guide wire removed. FIG. 19F illustrates the clinical procedure (introduction of an angioplasty balloon) performed through the port system. FIG. 19G illustrates the retraction of the sheath **1215** and closing of the iris diaphragm valve **1225** to prevent blood loss. FIG. 19H introduces the plug delivery tool **1230** into the system through sealing diaphragm before opening the iris diaphragm valve **1225**. FIGS. 19I-19J illustrate the sealing of the orifice using the plug **1235**. FIG. 19K illustrates detaching the plug delivery device **1230** from the plug **1235** and retracting. Closing the iris diaphragm is optional. FIG. 19L illustrates that the large coil **1212** is left in place after the plug **1235** is delivered. Many modifications to the steps of the procedure are possible as enabled by the various additional features described herein and depend on the specific clinical treatment desired.

FIG. 20 illustrates an example multiple access port device **1400** adapted for securing to the proximal end of an outer lumen. The multiple access port device **1400** may include multiple individual ports **1405a-1405n** which are each in fluid communication with an attachment end **1410**, and which allow using multiple different instruments to enter in communication with the outer lumen. All or a portion of the multiple access port device **1400** may be configured from a biocompatible pliable material, such as from a natural or synthetic rubber, or other polymer material, allowing flexible use of the individual ports **1405a-1405n**. The attachment end **1410** can releasably (or permanently) secure to the proximal end of the outer lumen, providing fluid communication from each of the individual ports **1405a-1405n** to the inner passage of the outer lumen.

The multiple access port device **1400** may further include one or more flow control mechanisms, which may be in operable communication with one or more of the individual ports **1405a-1405n** and/or with the converging portion of the device **1400**. The flow control mechanisms may be any mechanism allowing selective flow through the respective passage, such as, but not limited to, clamp valves, duck bill valves, globe valves, single or multiple leaflet valves, breast pump valves, diaphragm valves, and the like. In addition, one or more de-airing orifices **1415**, as are known, may be

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included with the multiple access port device **1400** to prevent introducing air into the patient's vasculature during use. In other embodiments, however, the de-airing orifice may be associated with the outer lumen **810** or another portion of the system. Although the multiple access port device **1400** is shown and described as being attached to the outer lumen, in other embodiments, a multiple access port device **1400** may be attached directly to the attaching device or attached to the inner lumen.

FIGS. **21A-21B** illustrate various embodiments of a delivery system having an inner lumen with a steerable tip. For example, as shown in FIG. **21A**, the inner lumen **300** may be directed in two or three dimensions in order to direct the therapeutic devices passing through the lumen **300** in the desired direction. According to the embodiment, as shown in FIG. **21A**, the steerable tip **305** may be guided utilizing a distal section that is flexible and a system of wires, rods, or other members extending proximally for use by the operator to exert forces at different sections of the steerable tip **305**, deforming the lumen **300** in a controlled direction. The steerable tip **305** may be achieved according to techniques similar to those utilized for steerable catheters, as are known.

FIG. **21B** illustrates another embodiment of a steerable inner lumen **400**. According to this embodiment, a guide wire **405** is provided over which the inner lumen **400** is passed and a guiding tip **410** is provided, extending from the distal end of the inner lumen **400**. The guiding tip **410** may have a curved shape (or other preformed shape) such that the guiding tip **410** causes the guide wire **405** to approximately follow the curve of the guiding tip **410**. As the guide wire curves, so will the inner lumen **400**. To provide additional degrees of freedom or movement, the inner lumen **400** may be rotated about its longitudinal axis to achieve improved steering of the distal end of the inner lumen. According to one embodiment, the guiding tip **410** includes a guide **415**, such as a ring, an eye, a channel, etc., which maintains the relationship of the guide wire **405** and the guiding tip **410**. Furthermore, a control mechanism **420**, such as a handle, a trigger, or other suitable means, may be in operable control with the guiding tip **410** to allow extending or retracting the guiding tip **410** and/or to rotate the guiding tip **410** and/or the inner lumen **400**. In further embodiments the inner tube with steerable tip, may be a medical catheter or sheath with an steerable distal end. This sheath or catheter may be steered by tension on a single or multiple wires which run axially within the wall of the device.

FIGS. **22-23C** illustrate perspective views of yet additional embodiments of an inner lumen, in which the inner lumen is configured as a collapsible inner lumen. Accordingly, a collapsible inner lumen may be expandable and/or collapsible in order to allow delivery of the lumen endovascularly or trans-cutaneously, such as within a catheter or insertion sleeve. Therefore, a collapsible inner lumen can collapse to a compressed state, having a smaller diameter, allowing inserting through a smaller orifice, such as may be utilized during endovascular or trans-cutaneous procedures. After insertion and placement, the collapsible inner lumen can be expanded to provide a passage having an increased diameter to allow inserting instruments and/or administering therapy therethrough.

Moreover, a collapsible lumen may further facilitate sealing a tissue puncture when inserted therethrough and expanded to its expanding state by creating an outward radial force against the tissue walls. It is thus possible that, in embodiments using a collapsible/expandable inner lumen, an attaching device need not be a radially expanding coiled

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device or other device that urges tissue in an inward radial direction because the collapsible/expandable inner lumen creates the pressure by urging itself in an outward radial direction when in an expanded state. It is appreciated that, in some embodiments, an attaching device, an outer lumen, and/or any other aspects of the system may likewise be collapsible to allow delivery by trans-cutaneous access.

FIGS. **22A-D**, thus, show a collapsible inner lumen **1500** in a collapsed (FIGS. **22A** and **22D**) and expanded (FIGS. **22B** and **22D**) state. A collapsible inner lumen **1500** may generally include an expanding member **1505** and an expandable membrane **1510** provided over the expanding member **1505**. Also as shown in FIG. **22A**, in one embodiment, a collapsed inner lumen **1500** may serve as a piercing device by forming a substantially sharpened tip when the expanding member **1505** is in a collapsed state. The piercing device may be utilized to puncture or otherwise open the tissue through which the lumen **1500** is to be inserted. The expanding member **1505** of FIGS. **22B** and **22C** is shown as a series of elongated members (e.g., expandable barbs, etc.) that may be mechanically operated to expand and/or collapse.

FIGS. **23A-23C** illustrate other embodiments of a collapsible inner lumen. With reference to FIG. **23A**, an expanding member **1520** may be configured as an expanding coil wire or helical ribbon selectively expandable within a tube-shaped membrane **1510**. FIG. **23B** illustrates a different expandable member **1525** configured in an expanding mesh configuration, such as is utilized for an expanding mesh stent. In one embodiment, a membrane **1510** is also provided for use with the expanding mesh member **1525**. Though, in other embodiments, the expanding mesh member **1525** may be configured for use without a separate membrane, whereby the mesh arrangement provides a substantially closed surface in an expanded or collapsed state. FIG. **23C** shows yet another embodiment of an expanding member **1530** configured as an expanding helix, which expands radially when removed from the membrane **1510** to unwind, in a manner similar to an unwinding ribbon. Any of the various expanding members **1505**, **1520**, **1525**, **1530** described herein may be configured to expand and/or collapse using one or more of: mechanical actuation, inflation, material properties, structural properties, electrical excitation, thermal excitation, and/or any combination thereof.

FIGS. **24A-23B** illustrate an example embodiment in which the distal end or tip **1705** of a collapsible inner lumen **1500** is flexible, allowing it to serve as a valve or port. For example, as shown in FIGS. **24A-24B**, according to one embodiment, the flexible tip **1705** may generally be in a closed state until an instrument **1710** (or any other member) forces separable portions of the tip **1705** apart into an open state. A flexible tip **1705** may thus be utilized to control access through the inner lumen **1500** and/or to control fluid flow through the inner lumen **1500**. Moreover, in some embodiments, the ability to selectively control fluid allows for leaving the inner lumen **1500** implanted within a tissue wall to enable multiple subsequent accesses therethrough. In some embodiments the distal tip of the closure plug may be flexible and serve as a valve or port as described below. This expandable and/or flexible tip of the closure plug may therefore allow for re-access after closure.

According to various embodiments, an attaching device may be closed and/or the tissue wall puncture may be substantially sealed to close the puncture, to prevent fluid flow therethrough, and/or to allow multiple subsequent accesses. FIGS. **25A-25B** illustrate various example embodiments of an attaching device **820** which is adapted to

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receive a plug **1800** to substantially seal the attaching device **820**. As shown in FIG. 25A, a plug **1800** may include a plug end **1805** and an opposite threaded end **1810**. The plug **1800** is sized and shaped to releasably fit within the attaching device **820**, being inserted from the proximal direction. According to this embodiment, the attaching device **820** has inner threads **1815** that are complementary to the threads **1810** of the plug **1800**, as shown in FIG. 25B. It is appreciated, however, that any number of releasably attaching techniques can be utilized to secure the plug **1800** to the attaching device **820**. Upon insertion, the distal plug end **1805** fits within a cavity **1820** of the attaching device **820**, which would otherwise provide fluid access therethrough.

FIGS. 26A-26B illustrate a variation of a plug **1800**, which includes an extended surface **1905** extending from the plug end **1805**. The extended surface **1905** is intended to fit within the puncture or perforation of the tissue wall so as to further improve the sealing abilities of the plug **1800** and the attaching device **820** generally by deforming the tissue and creating a seal between the plug end **1805** and the tissue and/or between the tissue and the attaching device **820** (e.g., a flange, ring, etc.). According to one example embodiment, the extended surface **1905** may have a smaller diameter than the plug end **1805**. In one embodiment, as shown in FIG. 26B, a conical flange and/or conical coil of the attaching device **820** may further improve sealing by creating an inward radial force and urging the tissue against the extended surface **1905**. As described above, the distal tip of the closure plug may have a flexible valve or port, or self sealing membrane, to provide re-access to the tissue after closure.

FIGS. 27A-27B illustrate perspective views of alternative embodiments of plug and coil closure systems provided by the invention. FIG. 27A shows a plug **1800** (or cap) for occluding the attaching device orifice, similar to the plug of FIGS. 19J and 26A, having a threaded exterior surface for engaging corresponding threads on the interior orifice of the attaching device **820**. The plug configuration permits closure of the conduit with a minimal protruding profile. The plug **1800** can be constructed of any suitable materials, including biocompatible rigid polymers or metal alloys, and biodegradable materials. In certain embodiments, the surfaces of the plug and/or orifice of the attachment device can be coated with a biocompatible swellable composition, such as a collagen gel, to facilitate sealing between the plug and the attachment device. The plug can also be coated or impregnated with bioactive agents, such as but not limited to thrombolytics, growth factors, angiogenic agents, and antibiotics. The surfaces of the plug and attaching device embodiments can also be made textured or porous, such as through casting and laser etching techniques, in order to facilitate tissue ingrowth for improved immunological acceptance of the implantation.

FIGS. 27A-27B also illustrate a delivery instrument **2005** configured for delivering a plug **1800** through an extended lumen and for insertion into an attaching device **820**. The delivery instrument **2005** may be configured with an engagement element **2010** adapted to releasably attach to a plug **1800** and to allow rotating the plug **1800** during insertion into and removal from an attaching device **820**. In one embodiment, the engagement element **2010** can be a substantially solid end piece that includes a receiving feature (e.g., the female or male element of a corresponding male/female element on the plug **1800**), such as, but not limited to, a straight slot, cross-shaped slot (e.g., for use with a phillips head), a hexagonal shape (e.g., for use with an alien head), or any other geometry or assembly that allows secure

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selective insertion of the head of a delivery instrument **2005** into a complementary feature on the plug **1800**. According to other embodiments, any other mechanical forces, suction forces, or magnetic forces, or any combination thereof, may be utilized as part of the engagement element **2010** to provide releasable engagement of the delivery instrument **2005** with the plug **1800**.

FIGS. 28A-28B illustrate yet additional closure or sealing devices, which operate by compressing or collapsing the tissue at the puncture site in the tissue wall. According to this embodiment, the attaching device **820** includes a variable radius coiled member **2105** for inserting into the tissue wall and securing the attaching device **820** to the tissue wall. The variable radius coiled member **2105** may have a relaxed state **2105a**, as shown in FIG. 28B and an expanded state **2105b**, as shown in FIG. 28A. In its relaxed state **2105a**, the coiled member **2105** includes a narrow section **2110** having a decreases radius relative to other portions of the coiled member **2105**. In its expanded state **2105b**, the narrow section **2110** is expanded such that the radius is greater than in its relaxed state. Thus, when the coiled member **2105** changes from its expanded state to its relaxed state, the tissue is compressed in an inward radial direction at or near the narrow section **2110**, which in turn facilitates sealing the tissue puncture. This type of coil by itself or with other elements may serve to close a puncture or bore in tissue. An hour glass shaped coil may also have the closure effects described above.

In the embodiment shown by FIG. 28A-28B, the variable radius coiled member **2105** may be forced into an expanded state **2105b** when a plug **1800** (or a lumen or other member) is inserted through the approximate center of the coiled member **2105** and expanding the narrow section **2110**, as shown in FIG. 28A. Thus, when the plug **1800** (or a lumen or other member) is removed, the coiled member **2105** reverts to its relaxed state **2105a**, allowing the narrow section **2110** to compress the tissue inward and seal the tissue wall.

It is appreciated that, in other embodiments similar to that shown in FIGS. 28A-28B, instead of (or in addition to) a coiled member, one or more barbs, wires, or pins may be configured to generally extend from the attaching device inward, but allow expansion or displacement by a plug or other member. Thus, similar to that shown in FIGS. 28A-28B, removal of the plug or other member would cause the barbs, wires, or pins to compress inward and achieve tissue sealing in much the same manner. It is further appreciated that, in these and/or other embodiments, any of the members may be constructed from shape memory materials (e.g., a shape memory alloy, such as Nitinol, etc.) that may be acted on to induce reverting to its relaxed state, as known, and cause inward compression of the tissue wall.

FIGS. 29A-29B show yet another embodiment for achieving closure of the tissue wall. According to this embodiment, an attaching device **820** may include one or more pledgets **2205** associated therewith and one or more sutures **2210** to be releasably inserted through the pledgets **2205** and a portion of the attaching device **820**. Thus, the sutures **2210** and/or pledgets **2205** may be used to initially close the tissue wall after removal of the inner tube but before removing the attaching device **820**. According to one embodiment, the pledgets **2205** may be pre-mounted onto an inner surface of the attaching device **820** (or flange), such that they can be left behind on the surface of the tissue when the attaching device **820** is removed. In a further embodiment of the device the inner lumen or conduit may be withdrawn from the tissue by adjusting a multiple position lock before

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tightening the suture, so that the inner lumen does not interfere with the closure of the tissue. During a procedure, the U-sutures or mattress sutures **2210** may be passed through the pledgets **2205** to close the tissue wall. In other embodiments, the sutures **2210** may be pre-mounted onto the attaching device **820** and through the pledgets **2205**. Tightening the sutures **2210** will cause them to pass through and separate from the attaching device **820** and close the tissue wall, as is known. It is appreciated that the sutures **2210** and/or pledgets **2205** may be utilized with any of the attaching device and/or conduit embodiments described herein.

Many modifications and other embodiments of the inventions set forth herein will come to mind to one skilled in the art to which these inventions pertain having the benefit of the teachings presented in the foregoing descriptions and the associated drawings. Therefore, it is to be understood that the inventions are not to be limited to the specific embodiments disclosed and that modifications and other embodiments are intended to be included within the scope of the appended claims. Although specific terms are employed herein, they are used in a generic and descriptive sense only and not for purposes of limitation.

What is claimed is:

1. A device for attaching to a tissue wall having a first surface and a second surface, the device comprising:
 - a port defining an opening extending along a longitudinal axis of the device;
 - a plurality of coils fixedly attached to the port and configured for advancing at least partially through the tissue wall such that at least a portion of each coil becomes disposed between the first surface and the second surface of the tissue wall, wherein the coils are centered on a common rotational axis; and
 - a plug configured for releasably attaching to the port and for positioning at least partially within the opening of the port, wherein the plug comprises a valve configured for moving between a closed state and an open state to control fluid flow through the plug.
2. The device of claim 1, wherein the opening of the port extends from a proximal end to a distal end of the port in a direction of the longitudinal axis of the device.
3. The device of claim 2, wherein the coils each extend distally beyond the distal end of the port.
4. The device of claim 1, wherein the common rotational axis of the coils is coaxial with the longitudinal axis of the device.
5. The device of claim 1, wherein the coils each have a radially expanding helical shape.

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6. The device of claim 1, further comprising a flange extending about the port and configured for engaging the tissue wall.

7. The device of claim 1, wherein the closed state is a natural state of the valve.

8. The device of claim 7, wherein the valve is configured for moving from the closed state to the open state upon insertion of an instrument through the valve.

9. The device of claim 1, further comprising a tube configured for advancing at least partially through the opening of the port.

10. The device of claim 9, wherein the tube comprises a valve configured for controlling fluid flow through the tube.

11. The device of claim 1, wherein the valve is positioned at a distal end of the plug.

12. The device of claim 1, wherein the valve comprises a plurality of separable portions configured for moving apart from one another when the valve is moved from the closed state to the open state.

13. The device of claim 1, wherein the plug comprises threads configured for releasably engaging mating threads of the port.

14. The device of claim 1, wherein the plug comprises a distal end, and wherein the distal end of the plug is configured for positioning within the opening of the port when the plug is attached to the port.

15. The device of claim 1, wherein the plug comprises a distal end, and wherein the distal end of the plug is configured for positioning distally beyond a distal end of the port when the plug is attached to the port.

16. The device of claim 1, wherein the plug comprises a proximal portion having a first outer diameter and a distal portion having a second outer diameter, and wherein the first outer diameter is greater than the second outer diameter.

17. The device of claim 16, wherein the proximal portion of the plug is configured for positioning at least partially within the opening of the port when the plug is attached to the port.

18. The device of claim 17, wherein the distal portion of the plug is configured for positioning at least partially outside of the opening of the port when the plug is attached to the port.

19. The device of claim 16, wherein the valve is positioned along the distal portion of the plug.

20. The device of claim 16, wherein the distal portion of the plug is configured for positioning at least partially through the tissue wall between the first surface and the second surface of the tissue wall.

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