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(54) **METHODS FOR PERCUTANEOUS SPINAL SURGERY**

(75) Inventors: **Kevin Thomas Foley**, Germantown, TN (US); **Maurice Mell Smith**, Cordova, TN (US); **John B. Clayton**, Germantown, TN (US); **Joseph Moctezuma**, Memphis, TN (US)

(73) Assignee: **Warsaw Orthopedic, IN.**, Warsaw, IN (US)

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**A61B 17/88** (2006.01)  
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(58) **Field of Classification Search** ..... 600/201-246; 606/86 R, 90, 104, 108, 114, 191, 204, 208, 606/235, 279

See application file for complete search history.

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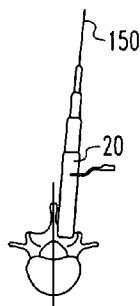
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*Primary Examiner* — Thomas C Barrett  
*Assistant Examiner* — Larry E Waggle, Jr.

(57) **ABSTRACT**

A method for accessing the spine includes making an incision in the skin of a patient. The skin and tissue can be dilated, and a cannula inserted through the dilated skin and tissue. The cannula includes a distal end positioned adjacent a first working space that includes paraspinal tissue. The cannula can be repositioned through the incision to a second working space adjacent the distal end of the cannula.

**42 Claims, 7 Drawing Sheets**



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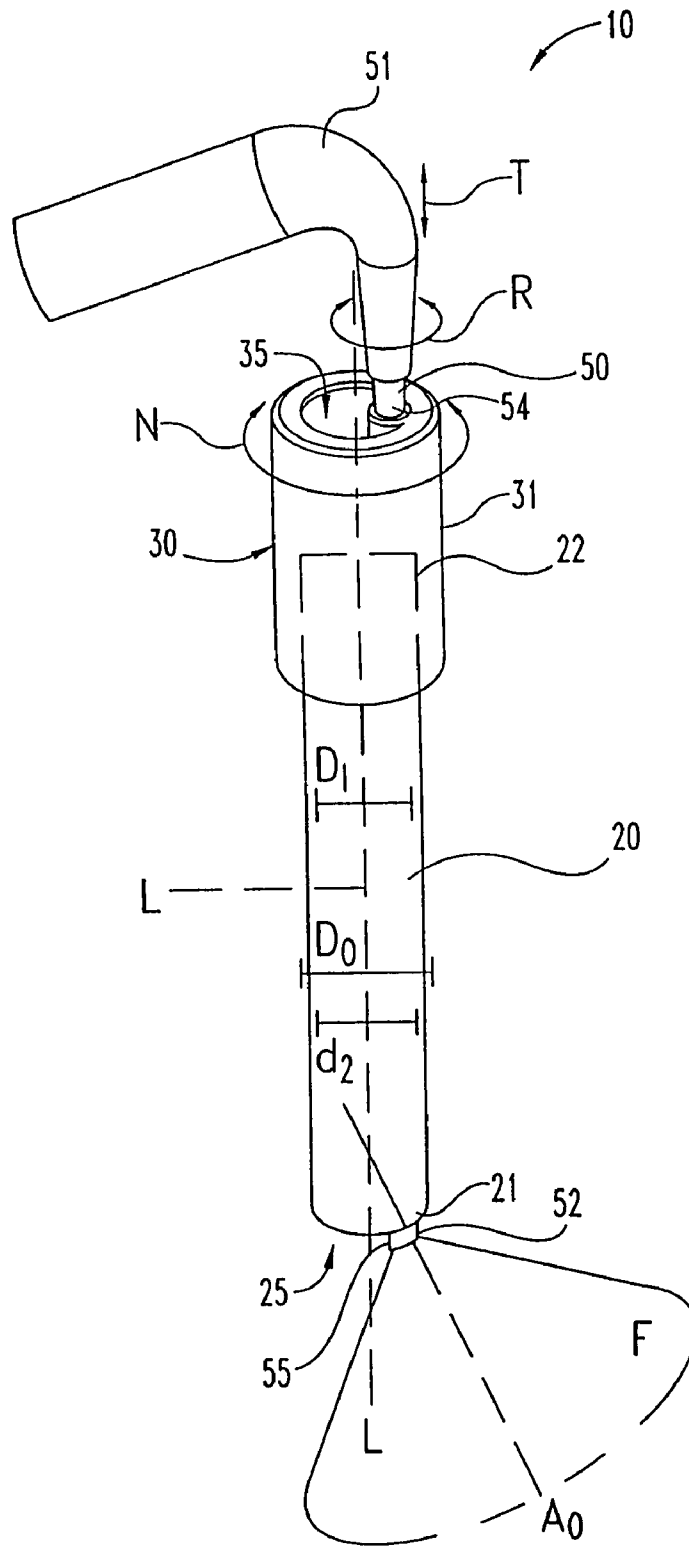
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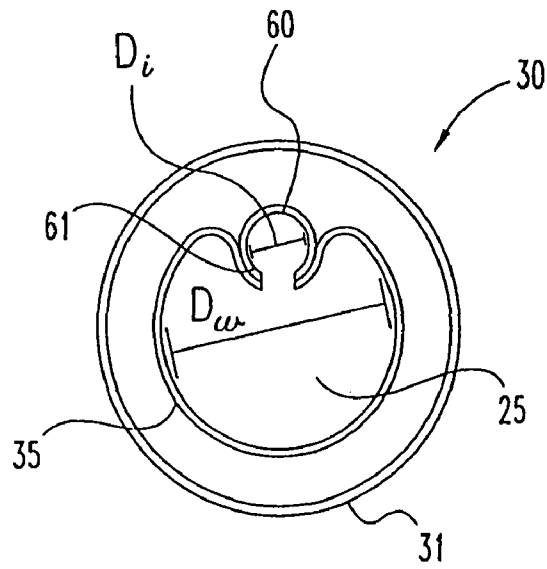
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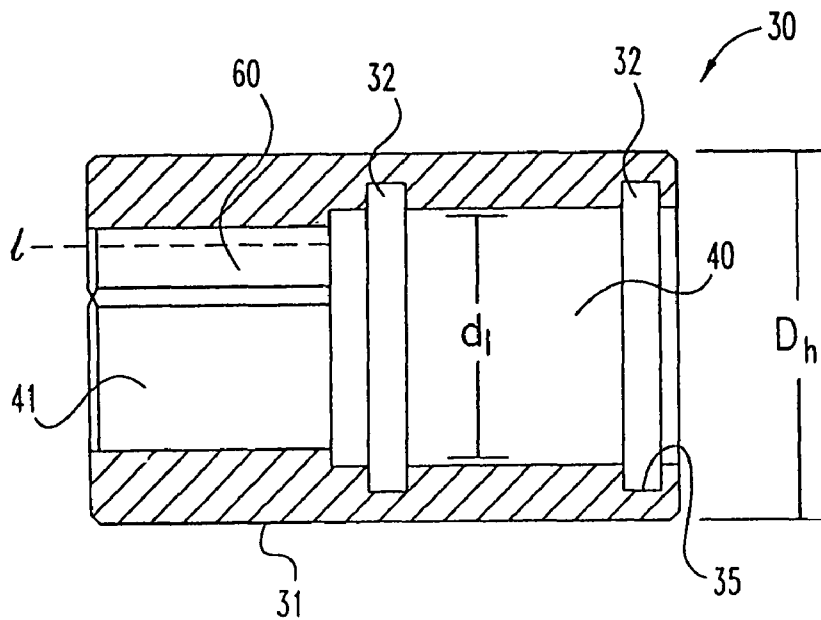
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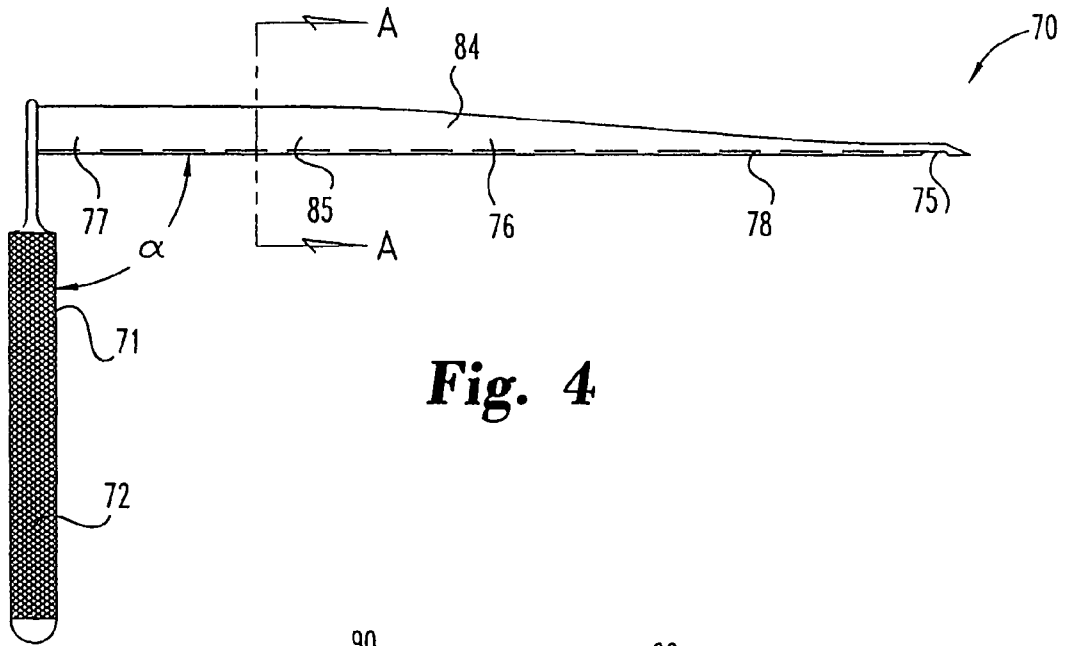
**Fig. 1**



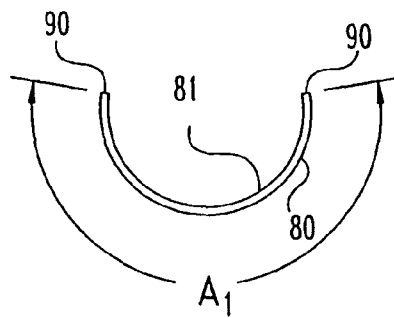
**Fig. 2**



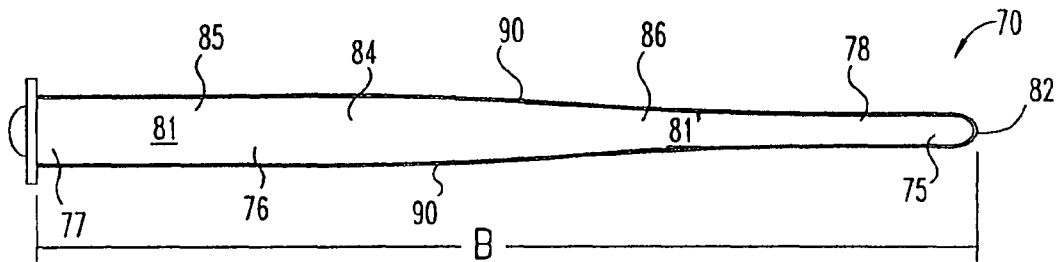
**Fig. 3**



**Fig. 4**



**Fig. 4A**



**Fig. 5**

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