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Hermann et al.

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(54) LARGE-DIAMETER INTRODUCER SHEATH HAVING HEMOSTASIS VALVE AND REMOVABLE STEERING MECHANISM

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(*) Notice: Subject to any disclaimer, the term of this patent is extended or adjusted under 35 U.S.C. 154(b) by 0 days.

This patent is subject to a terminal disclaimer.

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Related U.S. Application Data

(60) Continuation of application No. 08/735,401, filed on Oct. 21, 1996, now Pat. No. 5,843,031, which is a division of application No. 08/330,140, filed on Oct. 24, 1994, now Pat. No. 5,599,305.

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(52) U.S. Cl. 604/95.04; 604/96.01; 604/164.01; 604/167.01; 604/523; 604/537; 604/912

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Product label; Arrow International, Inc., Reading, Pennsylvania 19605; super Arrow Flex™.

Primary Examiner—John G. Weiss

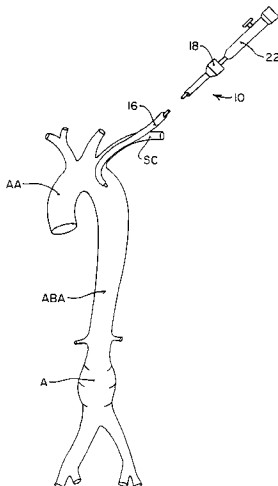
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(57) ABSTRACT

A catheter introducing system includes an introducer catheter comprising a flexible sheath having a hemostasis valve and an obturator having a steering mechanism operated by a proximal actuator handle. The catheter introducer system will usually be introduced with the obturator inside of the flexible sheath so that the obturator can effect steering by laterally deflecting the distal end of the combined sheath and obturator. Such catheter introducing systems are particularly useful for large diameter sheaths which are not readily introduced over guide wires. A first exemplary hemostasis valve comprises a compressed foam insert having an axial lumen therein. A second exemplary hemostasis valve comprises an elastomeric insert which receives and seals over the catheter.

10 Claims, 13 Drawing Sheets



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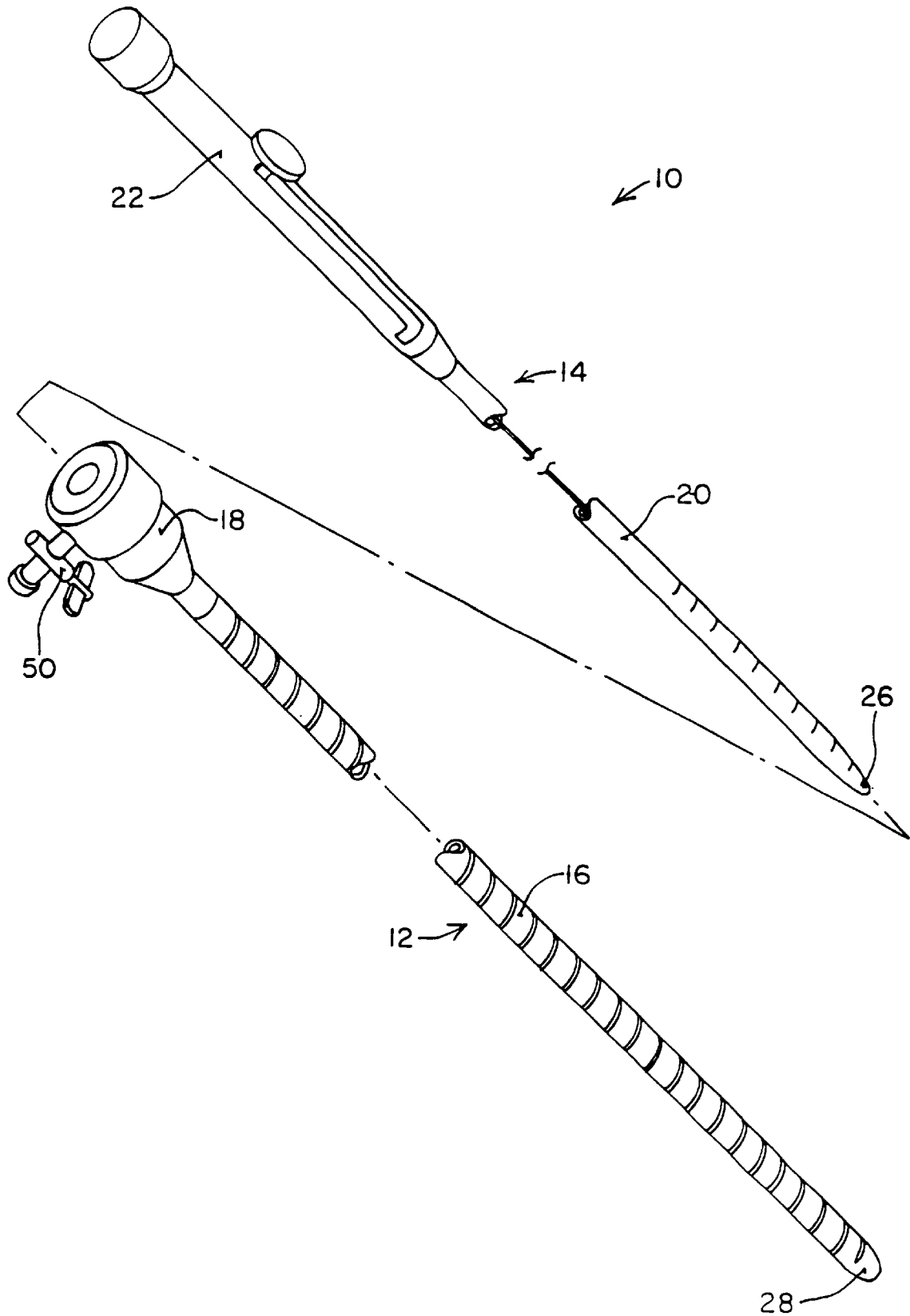


FIG. 1

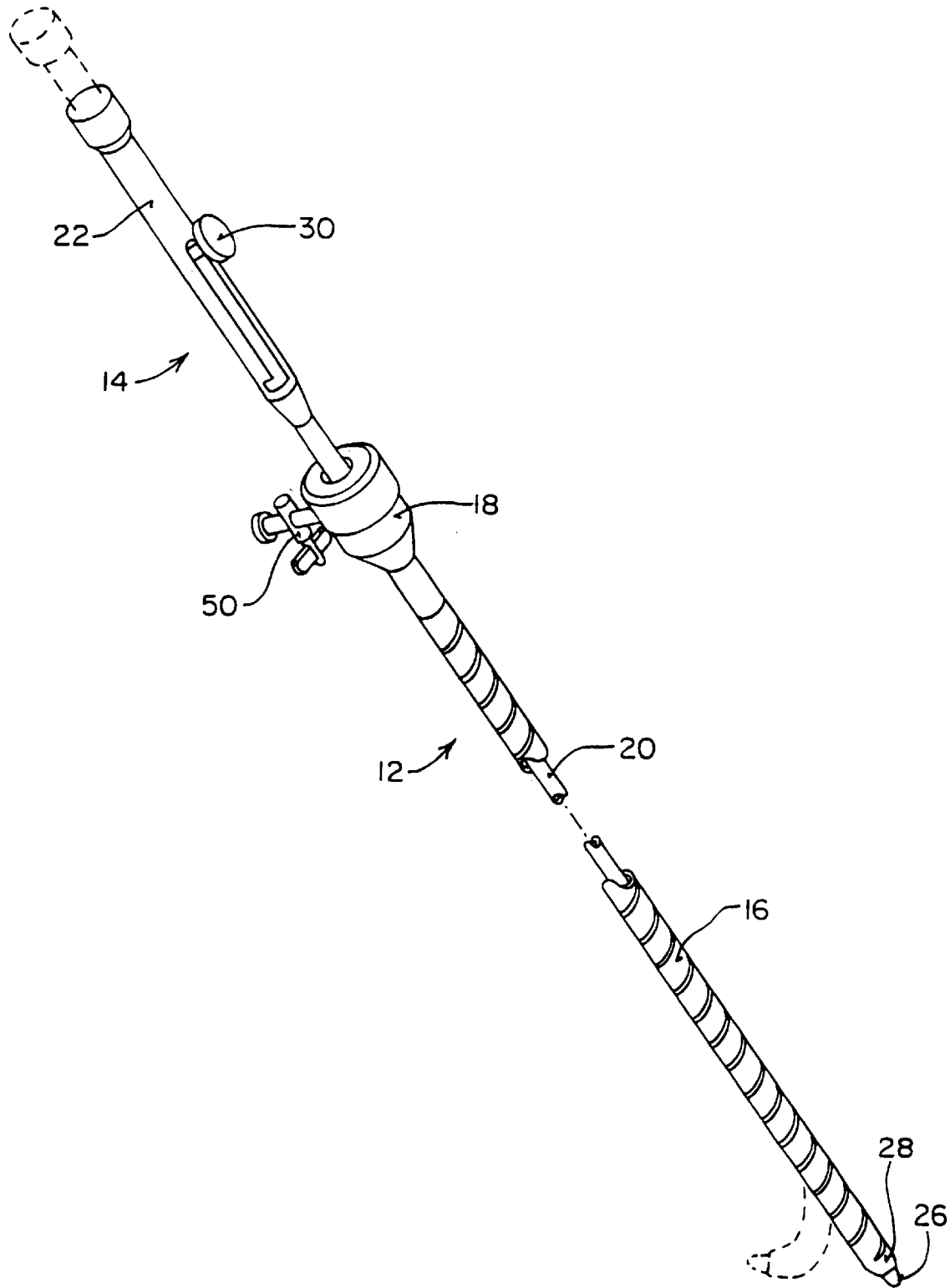


FIG. 2

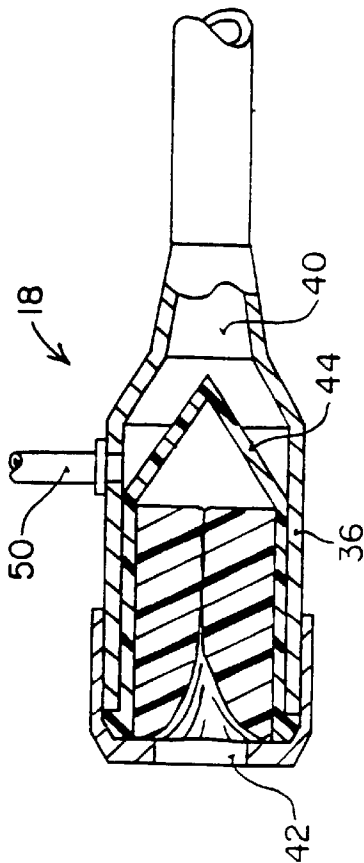


FIG. 3

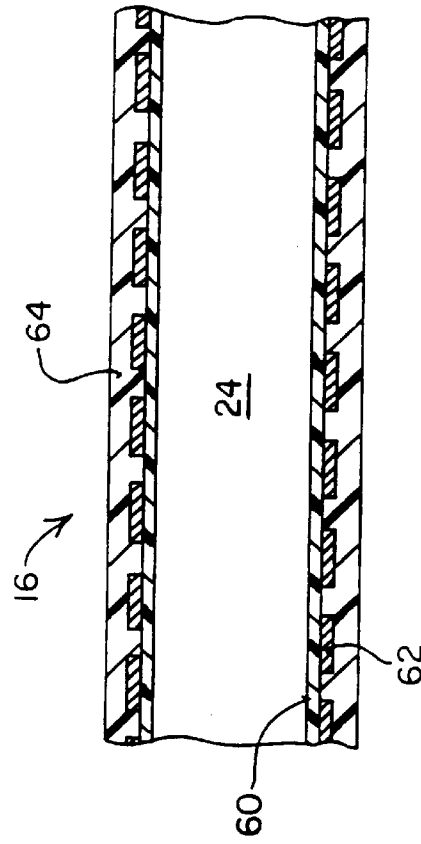


FIG. 5

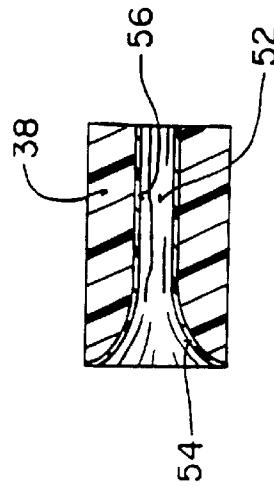


FIG. 4

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