



(19) **United States**

(12) **Patent Application Publication** (10) **Pub. No.: US 2002/0111608 A1**

**Baerveldt et al.**

(43) **Pub. Date: Aug. 15, 2002**

(54) **MINIMALLY INVASIVE GLAUCOMA SURGICAL INSTRUMENT AND METHOD**

**Publication Classification**

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(51) **Int. Cl.<sup>7</sup>** ..... **A61B 18/20**; A61B 18/14; A61B 17/32

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(52) **U.S. Cl.** ..... **606/6**; 606/15; 606/28; 606/41; 606/49; 606/180

(57) **ABSTRACT**

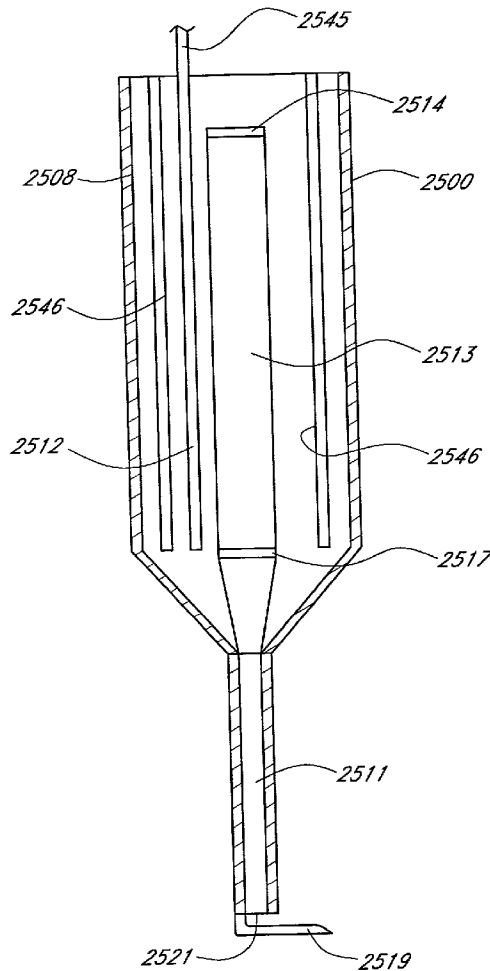
(21) Appl. No.: **10/052,473**

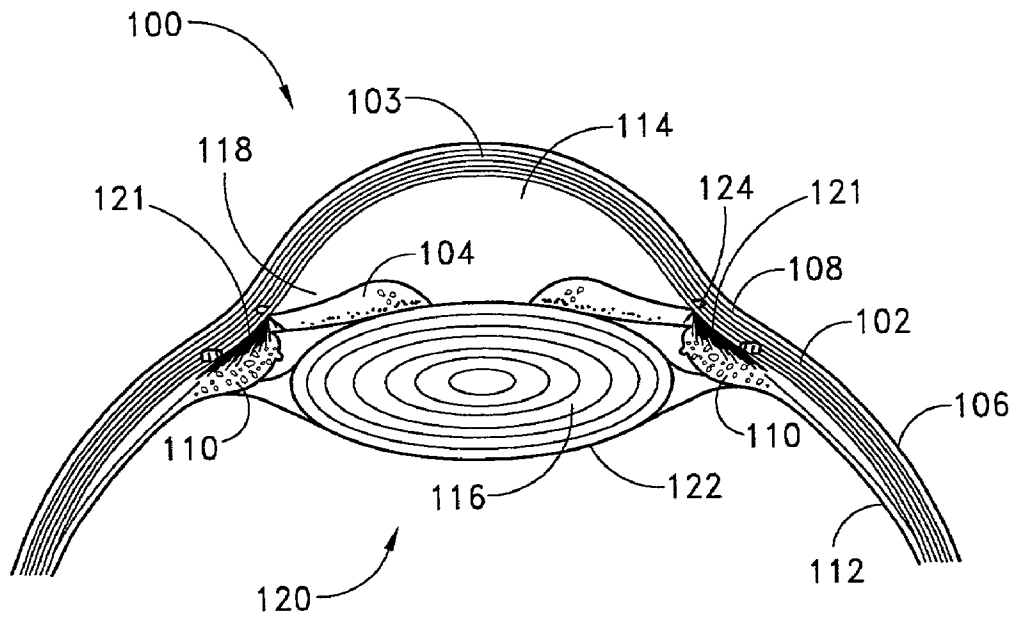
(22) Filed: **Jan. 18, 2002**

**Related U.S. Application Data**

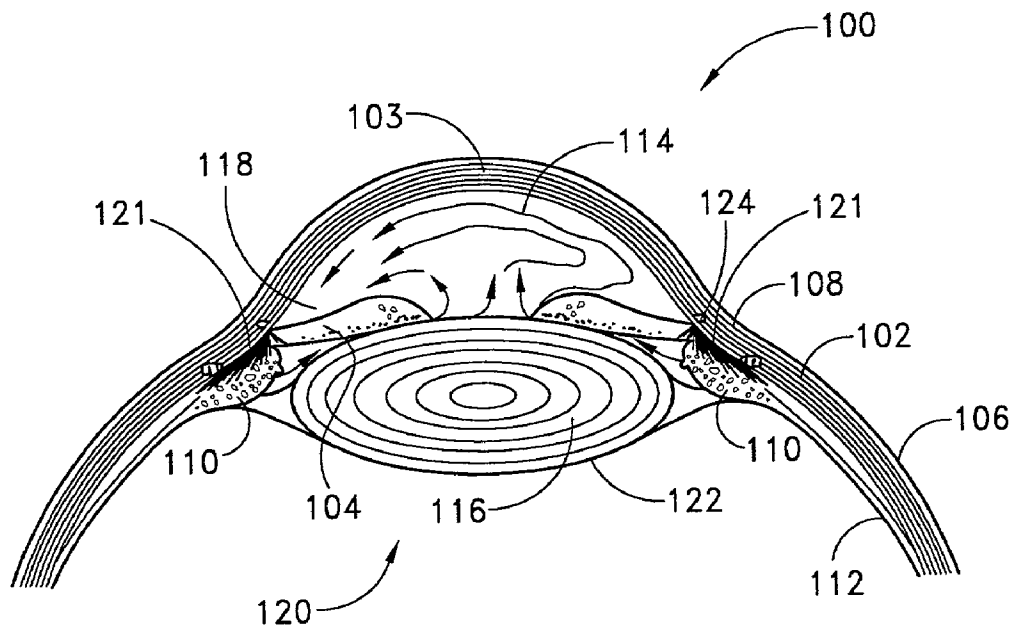
(60) Provisional application No. 60/263,617, filed on Jan. 18, 2001.

Apparatuses and methods for the treatment of glaucoma are provided. The instrument uses either cauterization, a laser to ablate, sonic or ultrasonic energy to emulsify, or mechanical cutting of a portion of the trabecular meshwork. The instrument may also be provided with irrigation, aspiration, and a footplate. The footplate is used to enter Schlemm's canal, serves as a guide, and also protects Schlemm's canal.

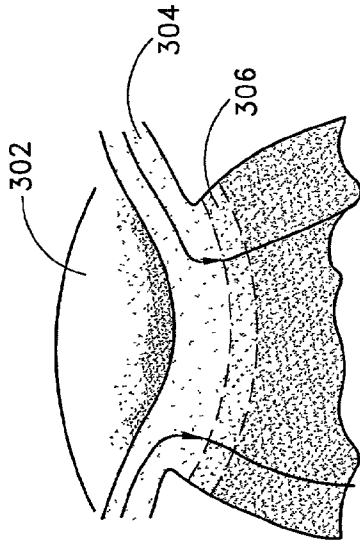




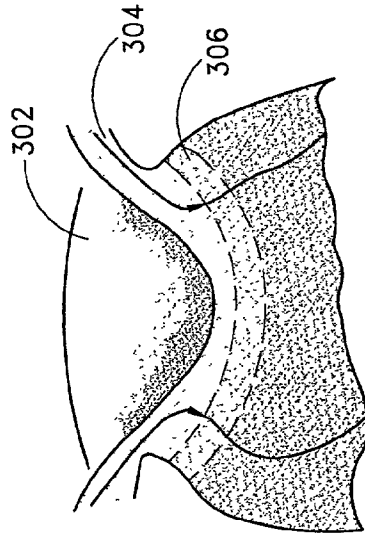
**FIG. 1**



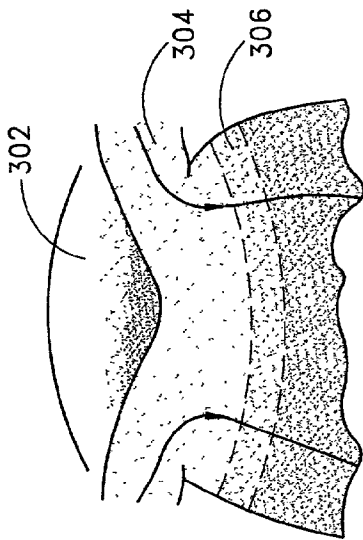
**FIG. 2**



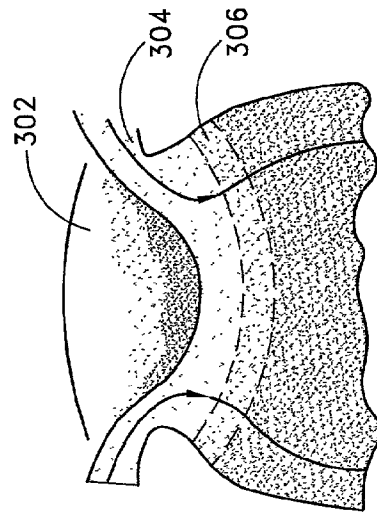
*FIG. 3B*



*FIG. 3D*



*FIG. 3A*



*FIG. 3C*

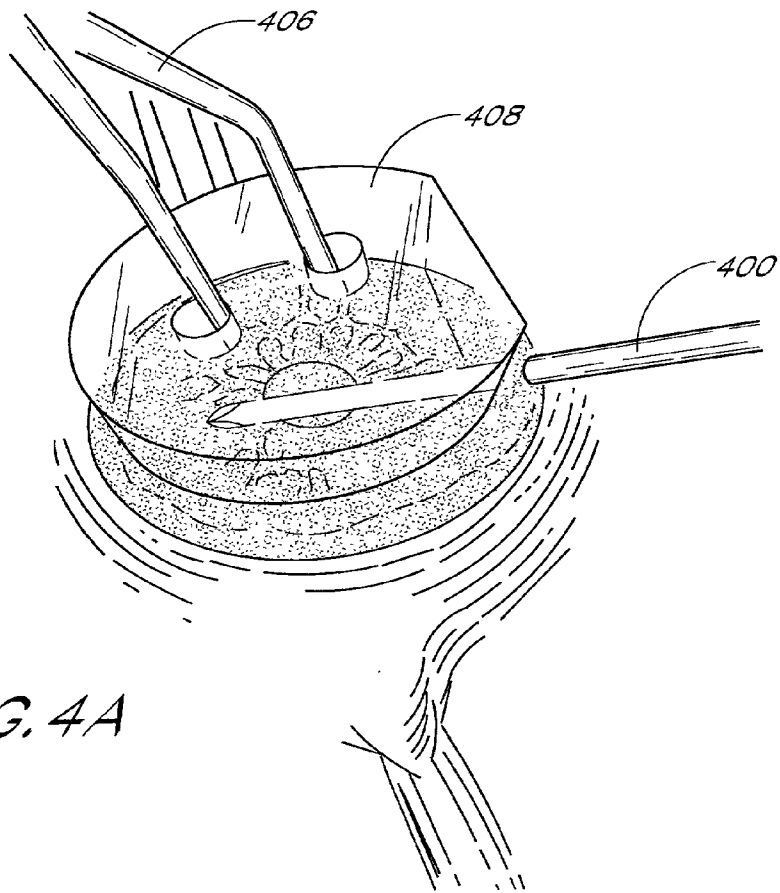


FIG. 4A

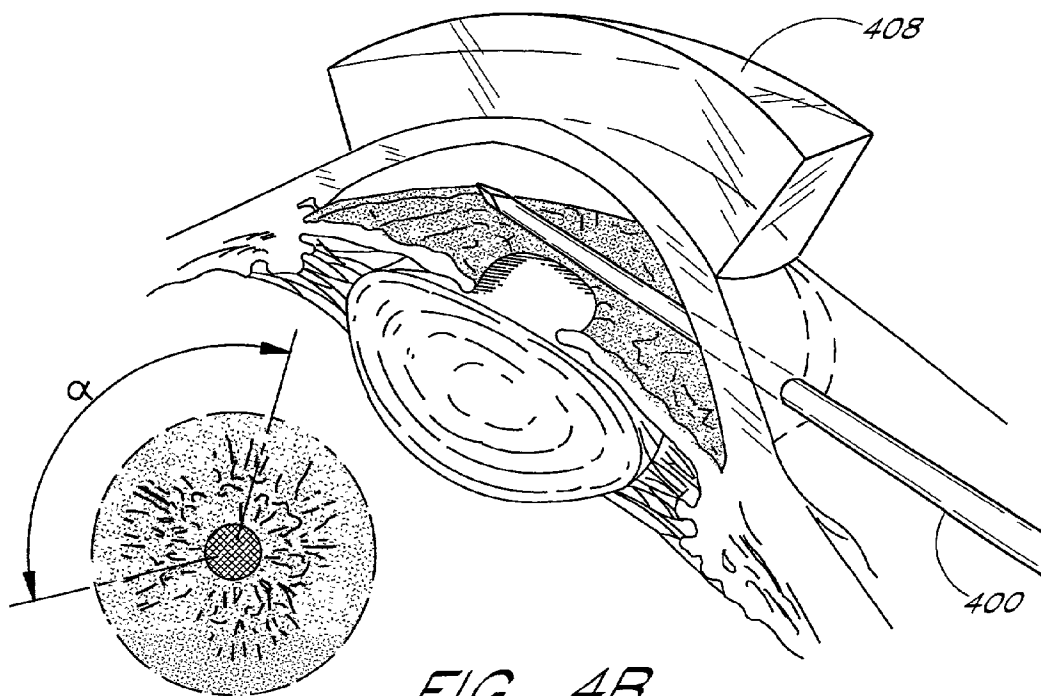


FIG. 4B

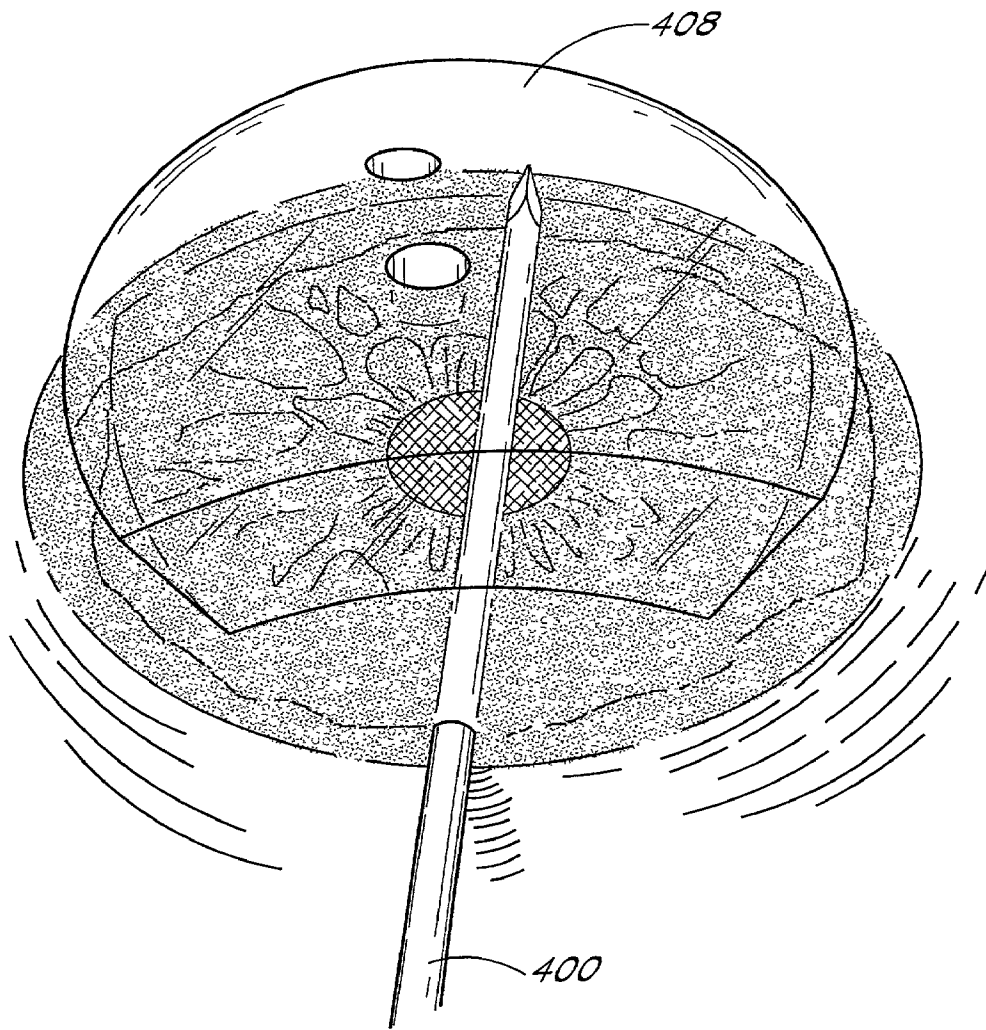


FIG. 4C

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