

38. The method of Claim 33, wherein the section of tissue comprises an ultimate tensile strength of greater than about 25 MegaPascals.

39. The method of Claim 33, wherein the section of tissue comprises a treated pericardium tissue.

5 40. A method of preparing a section of tissue for medical use, comprising:  
(a) contacting the section of tissue with distilled water;  
(b) contacting the section of tissue with isopropyl alcohol for a pre-fixation period of  
time of not less than about 3 days; and  
(c) contacting the section of tissue with one of  
10 (i) a formalin solution, or  
(ii) a glutaraldehyde solution  
for a fixation period of time of not less than about 3 days; and  
(d) contacting the section of tissue with isopropyl alcohol for a post-fixation period  
of time of not less than about 3 days;  
15 wherein step (b) occurs sometime after step (a), wherein step (c) occurs sometime after  
step (b), and wherein step (d) occurs sometime after step (c).

41. The method of Claim 40, wherein for step (c):  
if the formalin solution is used, then the formalin solution comprises a concentration of  
about 1 - 37.5% formalin; and

20 if the glutaraldehyde solution is used, then the glutaraldehyde solution comprises a  
concentration of about 0.1 - 25% glutaraldehyde.

42. The method of Claim 40, wherein for step (c):  
if the formalin solution is used, then the formalin solution comprises a concentration of  
about 8-12% formalin; and

25 if the glutaraldehyde solution is used, then the glutaraldehyde solution comprises a  
concentration of about 0.1-0.5% glutaraldehyde.

43. The method of Claim 40, wherein the section of tissue comprises a treated  
pericardium tissue.

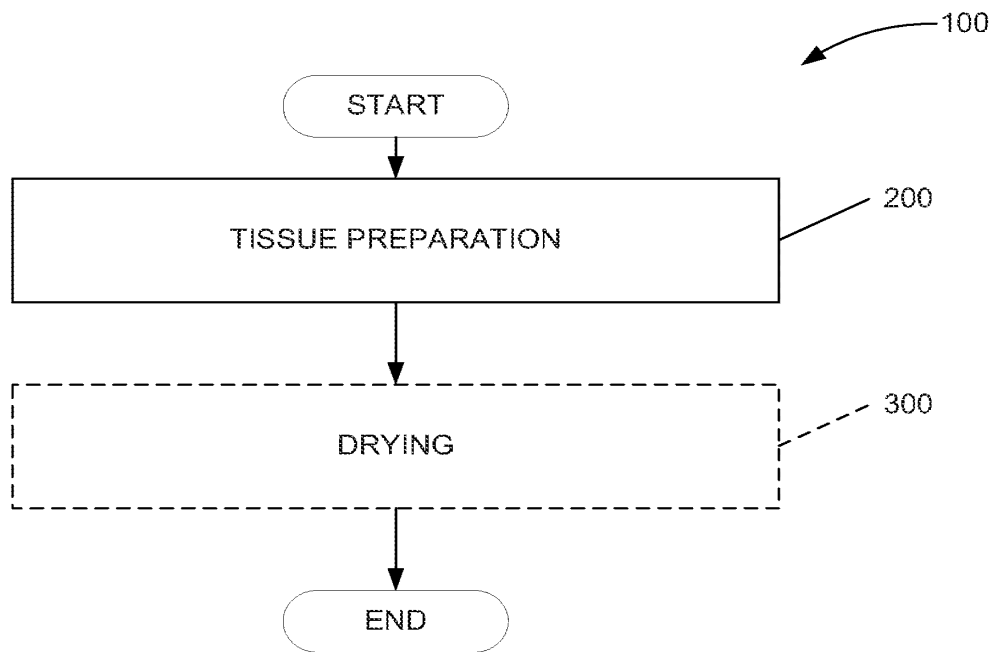


FIG. 1

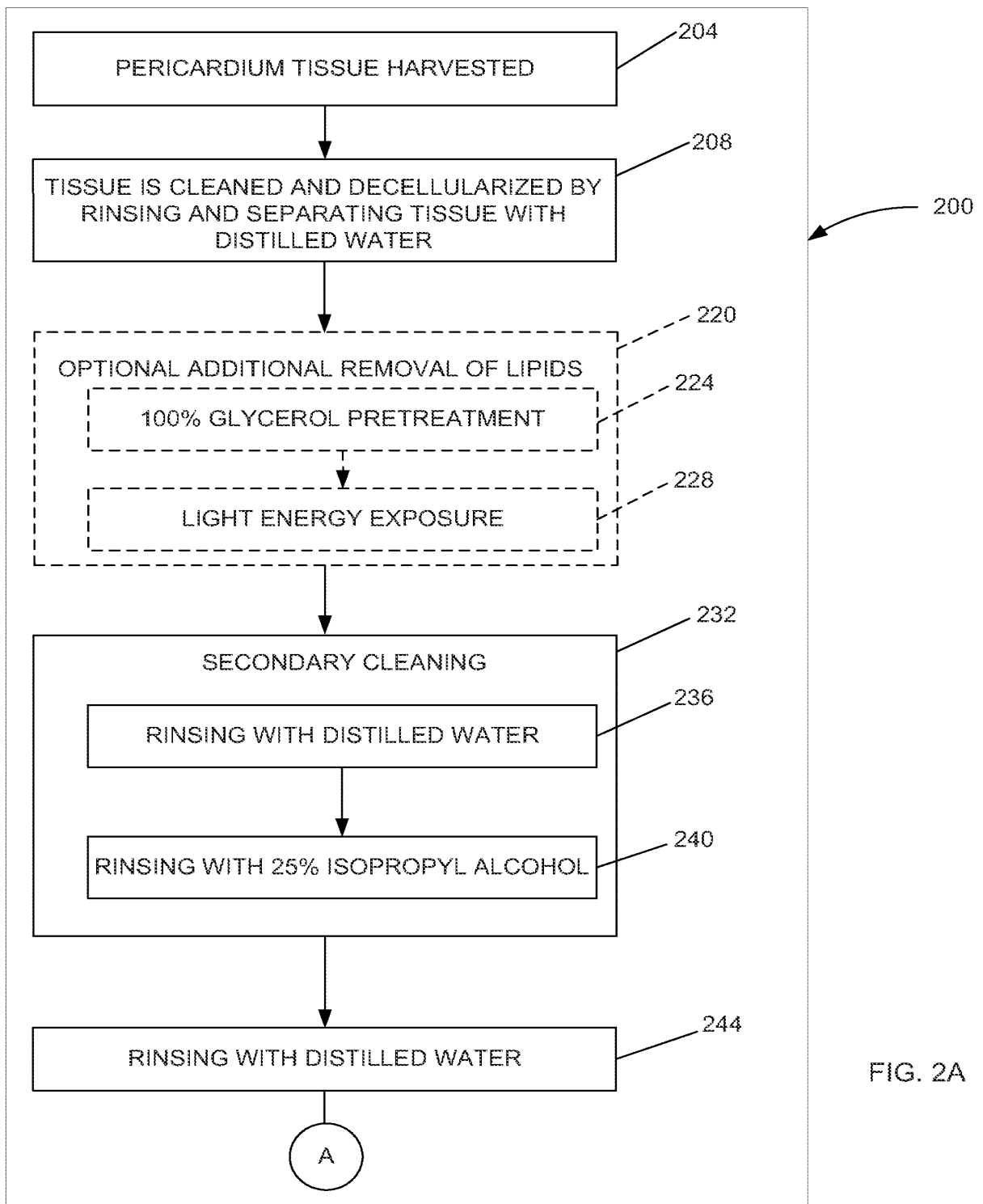


FIG. 2A

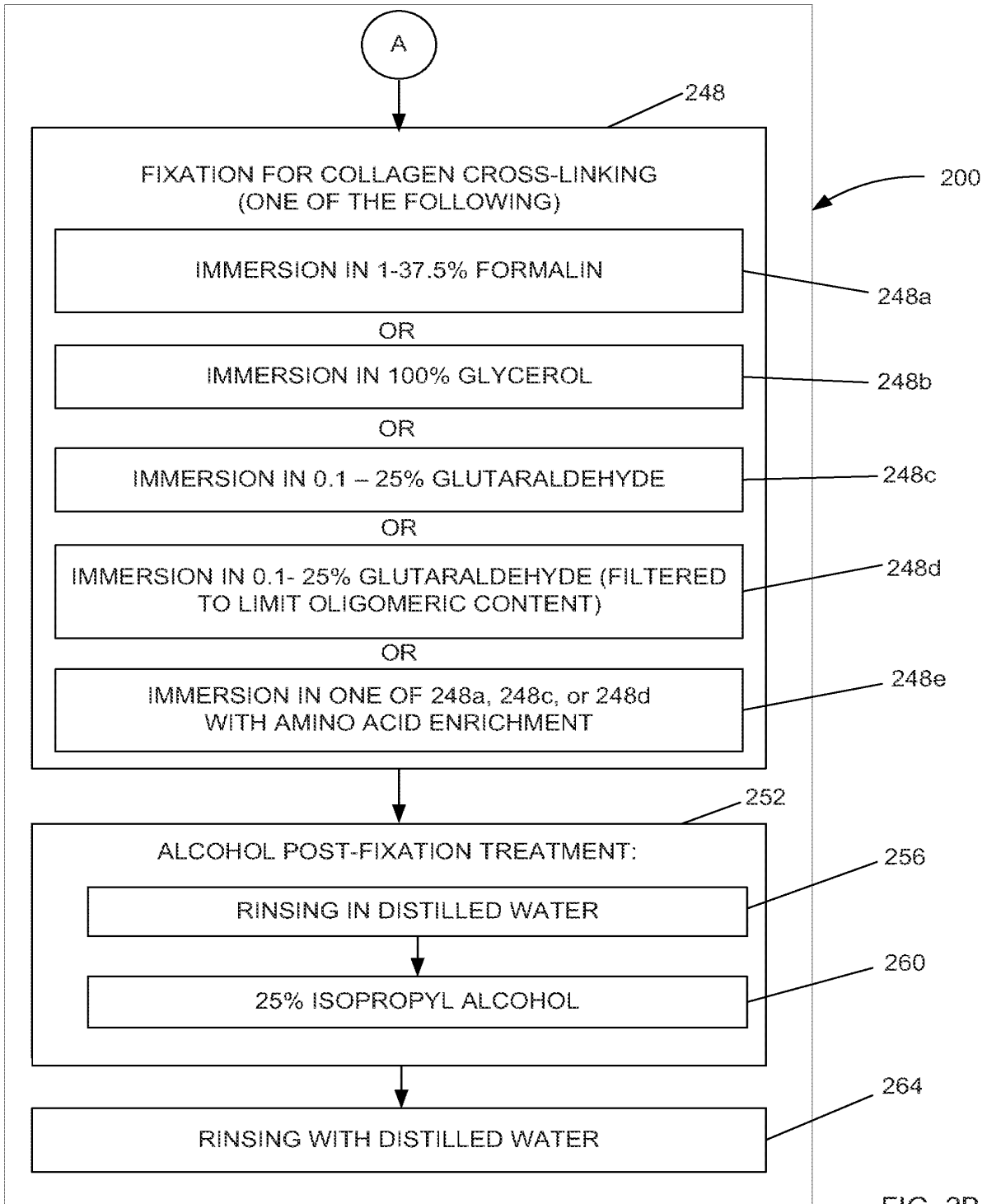


FIG. 2B

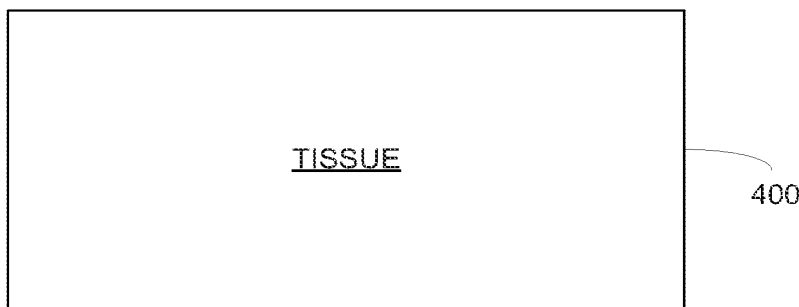
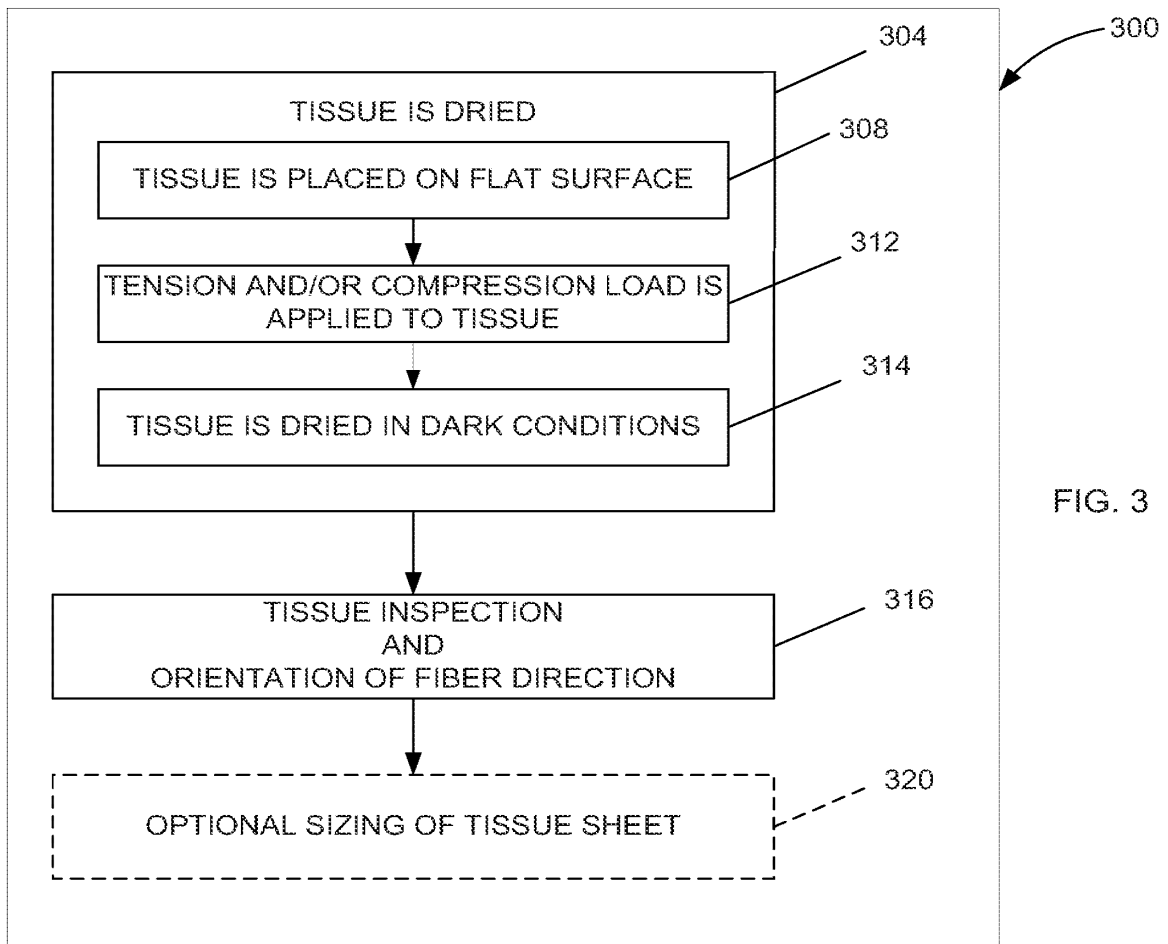


FIG.4

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