



US006752769B2

(12) **United States Patent**
Alberico

(10) **Patent No.:** **US 6,752,769 B2**
(45) **Date of Patent:** **Jun. 22, 2004**

- (54) **CORE BITE BIOPSY NEEDLE**
- (75) Inventor: **Ronald A. Alberico**, East Amherst, NY (US)
- (73) Assignee: **Health Research, Inc.**, Buffalo, NY (US)

5,313,958 A	5/1994	Bauer	128/754
5,492,130 A	2/1996	Chiou	128/753
5,507,298 A	4/1996	Schramm et al.	128/754
5,611,352 A	3/1997	Kobren et al.	128/751
5,807,277 A *	9/1998	Swaim	600/566
5,843,023 A	12/1998	Cecchi	604/44
5,916,175 A	6/1999	Bauer	600/567

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

FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS

EP	0455626 A1 *	4/1991
EP	0 455 626	11/1991
GB	2347862	9/2000
WO	00/56220	9/2000

(21) Appl. No.: **10/162,250**

(22) Filed: **Jun. 4, 2002**

(65) **Prior Publication Data**

US 2002/0198466 A1 Dec. 26, 2002

Related U.S. Application Data

(60) Provisional application No. 60/301,029, filed on Jun. 26, 2001.

(51) **Int. Cl.**⁷ **A61B 10/00**; A61B 17/34; A61M 5/32

(52) **U.S. Cl.** **600/570**; 600/564; 604/272; 606/185

(58) **Field of Search** 604/272; 606/167, 606/180, 185; 600/562, 564, 566, 567, 570, 571

(56) **References Cited**

U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS

4,600,014 A	7/1986	Beraha	128/754
4,640,296 A	2/1987	Schnepf-Pesch et al. ...	128/754
4,651,752 A	3/1987	Fuerst	128/754
4,708,147 A *	11/1987	Haaga	600/566
5,040,542 A	8/1991	Gray	128/754
5,224,488 A	7/1993	Neuffer	128/751

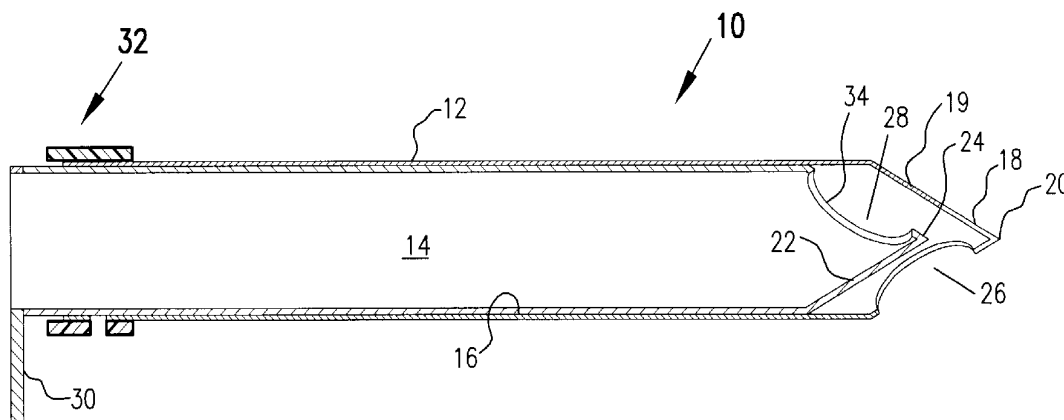
* cited by examiner

Primary Examiner—Michael J. Hayes
Assistant Examiner—Catherine S. Williams
(74) *Attorney, Agent, or Firm*—Michael L. Dunn

(57) **ABSTRACT**

A biopsy needle that is based upon an opening at the tip of the needle, not the side, that permits the entire sample to be cut from the patient yet has smooth sides to reduce injury to the patient when the needle is inserted. The needle of the invention has a coaxial inner needle or tube that allows the opening at the tip to be completely closed and the sample or specimen to be cut off at its point of attachment after insertion of the needle. The needle of the invention samples tissue in front of the needle as it is pushed forward, rather than scraping tissue from the edges of the needle track. In accordance with the invention, the coaxial inner needle can be withdrawn and the sample obtained without moving the outer needle or tube. Several samples can thus be obtained with minimal need for repositioning the needle avoiding pain, tissue damage and risks associated with such repositioning.

2 Claims, 3 Drawing Sheets



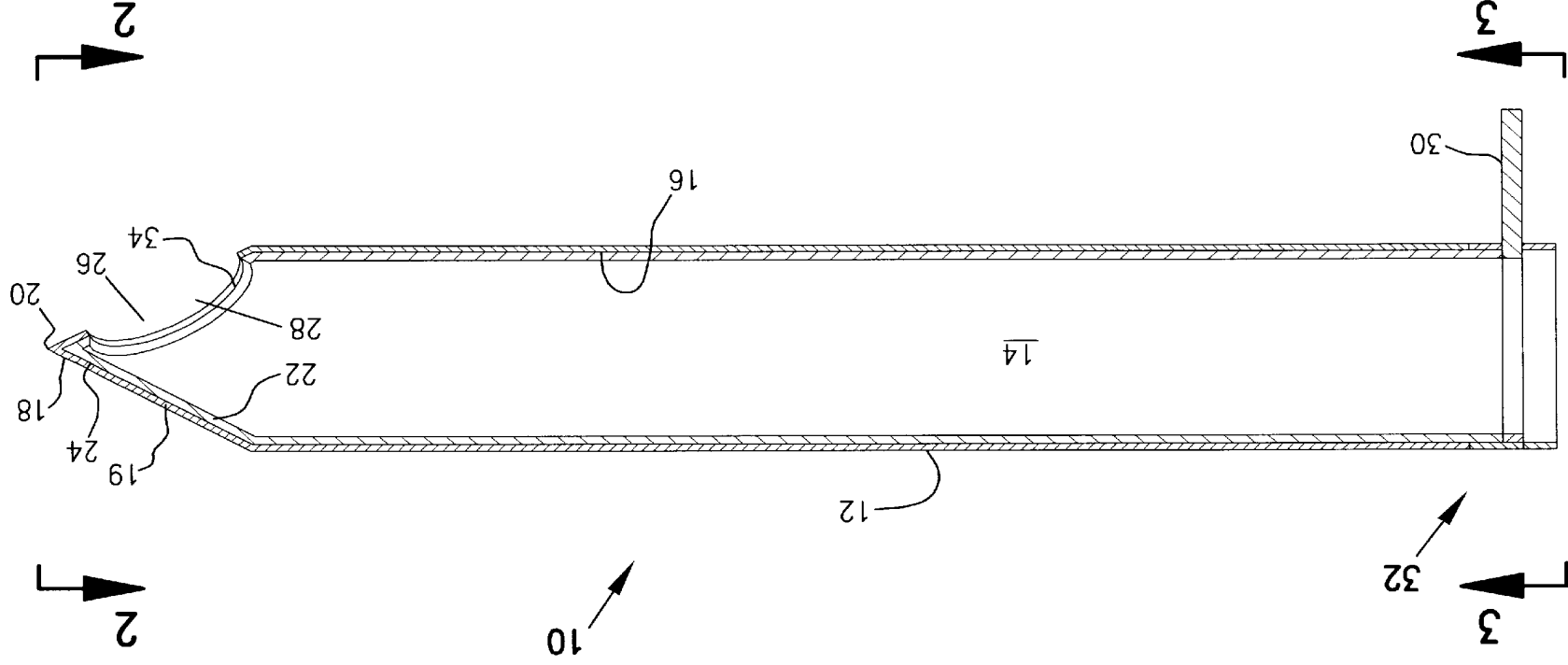
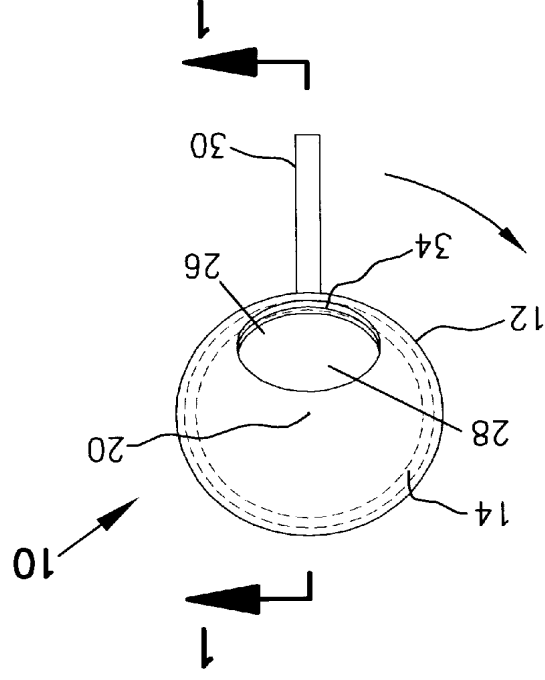
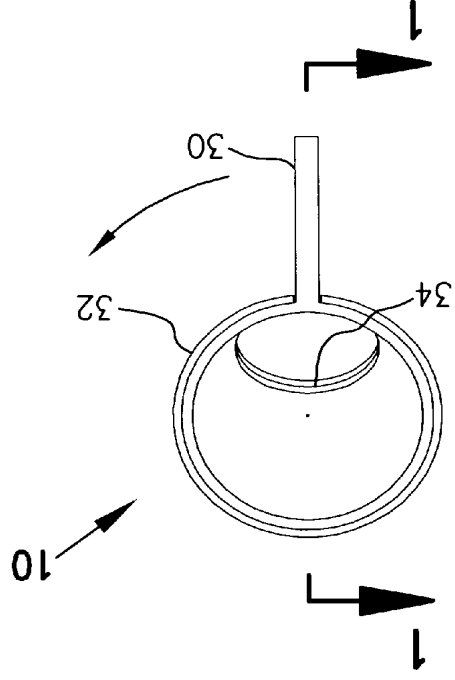
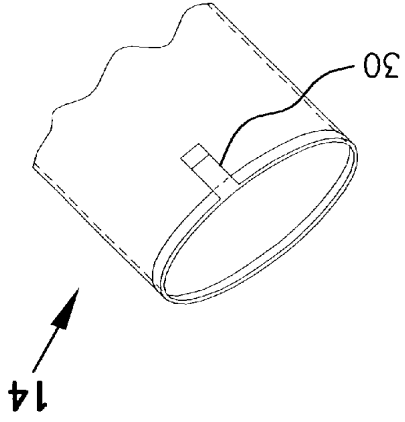


FIG. 1



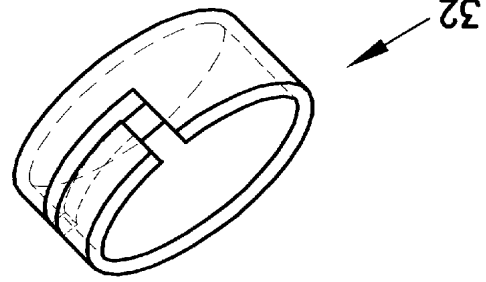


FIG. 5

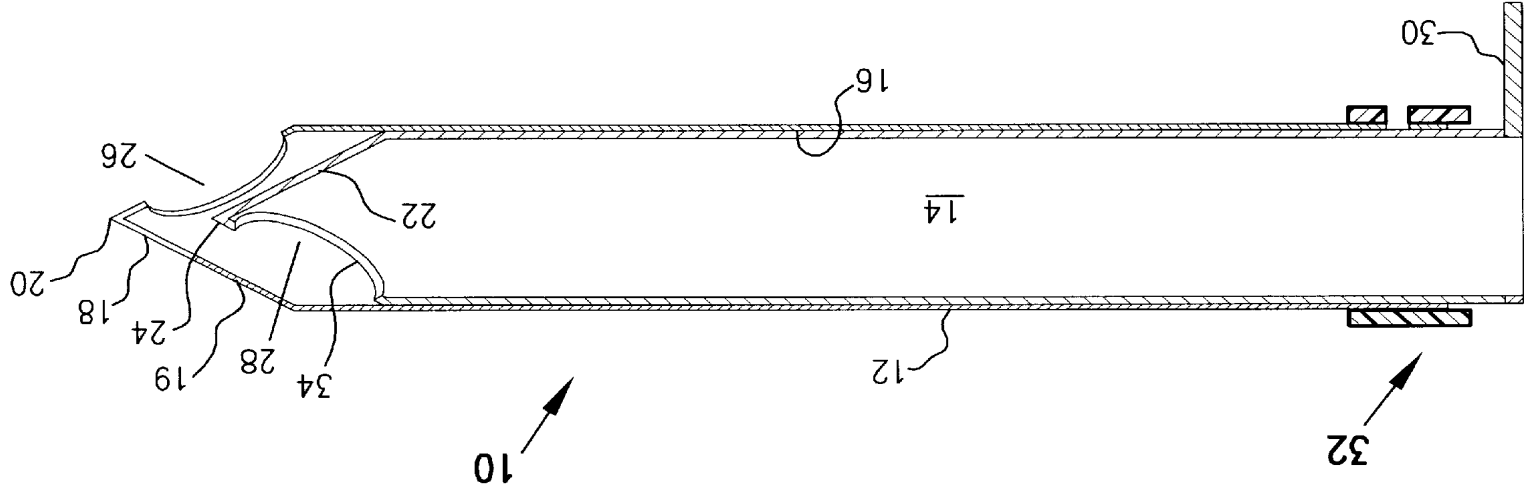


FIG. 6

CORE BITE BIOPSY NEEDLE

This application claims priority from U.S. Provisional Patent Application No. 60/301,029 filed Jun. 26, 2001.

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

This invention relates to biopsy needles and more particularly relates to needles that can cut a tissue sample internally within a patient and then withdraw the sample.

A number of biopsy needles for taking tissue samples are known but unfortunately such known needles have one or more serious disadvantages. Many of such needles, e.g. as described in U.S. Pat. Nos. 4,640,296; 5,040,542; 5,492,130; 5,843,023; 5,916,175; European Application 0 455 626; British Application 2 347 862 and International Application WO 00/56220 rely upon an open cutting edge of the needle which cuts around a sample and forces it into the needle. With such a configuration, the end of the sample is not severed but the operator must move the needle within the patient to finally tear the end of the sample from attached tissue. Such a procedure in a conscious patient can be extremely painful and traumatic and in any case can cause significant tissue damage to areas surrounding the removed sample. This unsatisfactory procedure is clearly illustrated in British patent application 2 347 862.

Another set of known biopsy needles does not cut at the tip of the needle but instead relies upon tissue overflowing into a side opening which is then cut off by a sliding sheath or other cutting means. Such needles are for example described in U.S. Pat. Nos. 4,600,014; 5,224,488; 5,313,958; 5,507,298; and 5,611,352. While such needles are an improvement in that the entire sample is cut rather than partially torn from a patient, there is another different problem associated with such needles. In particular, such needles rely upon tissue overflow into the side opening. The samples, if present at all, are thus irregular.

At least one attempt has been made to cut an entire sample while using an opening at the tip of the needle. Such an attempt is described in U.S. Patent No. 4,651,752. Unfortunately, the needle structure of U.S. Pat. No. 4,651,752 is complex with rough sides that can tear and bruise tissue and further would be very difficult to make in a small needle.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

FIG. 1 shows a cross sectional view of a preferred embodiment of the biopsy needle of the invention.

FIG. 2 shows a tip view of the needle of FIG. 1.

FIG. 3 shows a top end view of the needle of FIG. 1.

FIG. 4 shows a top side perspective view of the needle of FIG. 1.

FIG. 5 shows a perspective view of a hub detail of the needle of the invention.

FIG. 6 shows a cross sectional view of the needle with the inner needle partially withdrawn.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE INVENTION

In accordance with the invention, there is therefore provided a biopsy needle that is based upon an opening at the tip of the needle, not the side, that permits the entire sample to be cut from the patient yet has smooth sides to reduce injury to the patient when the needle is inserted.

The needle of the invention has a coaxial inner needle or tube that allows the opening at the tip to be completely

closed and the sample or specimen to be cut off at its point of attachment after insertion of the needle. The needle of the invention samples tissue in front of the needle as it is pushed forward, rather than scraping tissue from the edges of the needle track. In accordance with the invention, the coaxial inner needle can be withdrawn and the sample obtained without moving the outer needle or tube. Several samples can thus be obtained with minimal need for repositioning the needle avoiding pain, tissue damage and risks associated with such repositioning. Further, in closed position, the needle can be inserted through superficial tissue, pushing it to the side until a desired biopsy area is reached. The needle may then be opened near its point and further inserted to circumferentially cut a biopsy sample and the opening may then be closed to cut off the sample. Damage to superficial tissue and tissue in the area of the biopsy is thus minimized.

More particularly, the invention is a biopsy needle having an external hollow outer needle (tube) with a smooth side wall and an end with a point defined by at least one slanted end wall. The end wall is provided with an opening so that when the needle is inserted into biological tissue, tissue extends through the end opening in the external tube. An internal cutter, rotatable within the external hollow tube, is provided to cut a biological sample within said opening from its point of attachment and to close the opening upon making the cut.

In one embodiment, the internal cutter is an internal hollow tube fitting within the external hollow tube. The internal hollow tube has a shape corresponding with the shape of the external hollow tube, including an end opening corresponding with the end opening in the external hollow tube so that when the needle is inserted into biological tissue, tissue extends through the end openings in both the external tube and internal tube and rotation of the internal hollow tube cuts the tissue extending through the opening in the internal tube to obtain a cut sample and closes the opening in the external hollow tube to retain the cut sample.

The internal tube preferably slides within the external tube so that after a sample is cut, the internal tube can be withdrawn with the sample from the external tube without disturbing the position of the external tube.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE INVENTION

A preferred embodiment of the invention may be seen in the drawings. A biopsy needle **10** of the invention includes an outer needle or tube **12** and a coaxially rotatable corresponding inner needle or tube **14**. The outer tube **12** is defined by a smooth sidewall **16** and an end **18** defined by a slanted end wall **19** with a point **20**. The inner tube **14** has a corresponding end **22** with a point **24** sufficiently smaller in size to permit insertion within outer tube **12**. Ends **18** and **22** are provided with openings **26** and **28** respectively. A handle **30** is provided that is attached to inner tube **14** to facilitate its rotation within a slot in a hub **32**. The hub **32** attached to outer tube **12** holds and locks handle **30** in position to hold it longitudinally secure relative to outer tube **12** when inner tube **14** is rotated so that openings **26** and **28** are aligned. Hub **32** permits rotation of handle **30** and attached tube **14** so that an edge **34** of inner tube **14** can be moved to cut a sample and close openings **26** and **28** by relative opening offset. Handle **30** is however removable from hub **32** to permit withdrawal of handle **30** with attached inner tube **14** containing a sample, when opening **26** and **28** are offset. Such an offset position helps to retain the sample as inner tube **14** is removed.

3

It is to be understood that the invention also includes the method of taking a tissue sample using the biopsy needle of the invention.

What is claimed is:

1. A biopsy needle comprising an external hollow tube having a smooth side wall and an end with a point defined by at least one slanted end wall; wherein, said slanted end wall is provided with an opening so that when the needle is inserted into biological tissue, tissue extends through the opening in the external tube; and an internal cutter rotatable within the external hollow tube to cut a biological sample within said opening and to close said opening upon making said cut wherein the internal cutter is an internal hollow tube fitting within the external hollow tube, said internal hollow tube having a shape corresponding with the shape of the external hollow tube, including an end opening correspond-

4

ing with the end opening in the external hollow tube so that when the needle is inserted into biological tissue, tissue extends through the end openings in both the external tube and internal tube and rotation of the internal hollow tube cuts the tissue extending through the opening in the internal tube to obtain a cut sample and closes the opening in the external hollow tube to retain the cut sample and wherein the internal tube slides within the external tube so that after a sample is cut, the internal tube can be withdrawn with the sample from the external tube.

2. The needle of claim 1 where the internal tube may be withdrawn with a cut sample without disturbing the position of the external tube.

* * * * *