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(54) **ELECTROSURGICAL CUTTING INSTRUMENT**

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(57) **ABSTRACT**

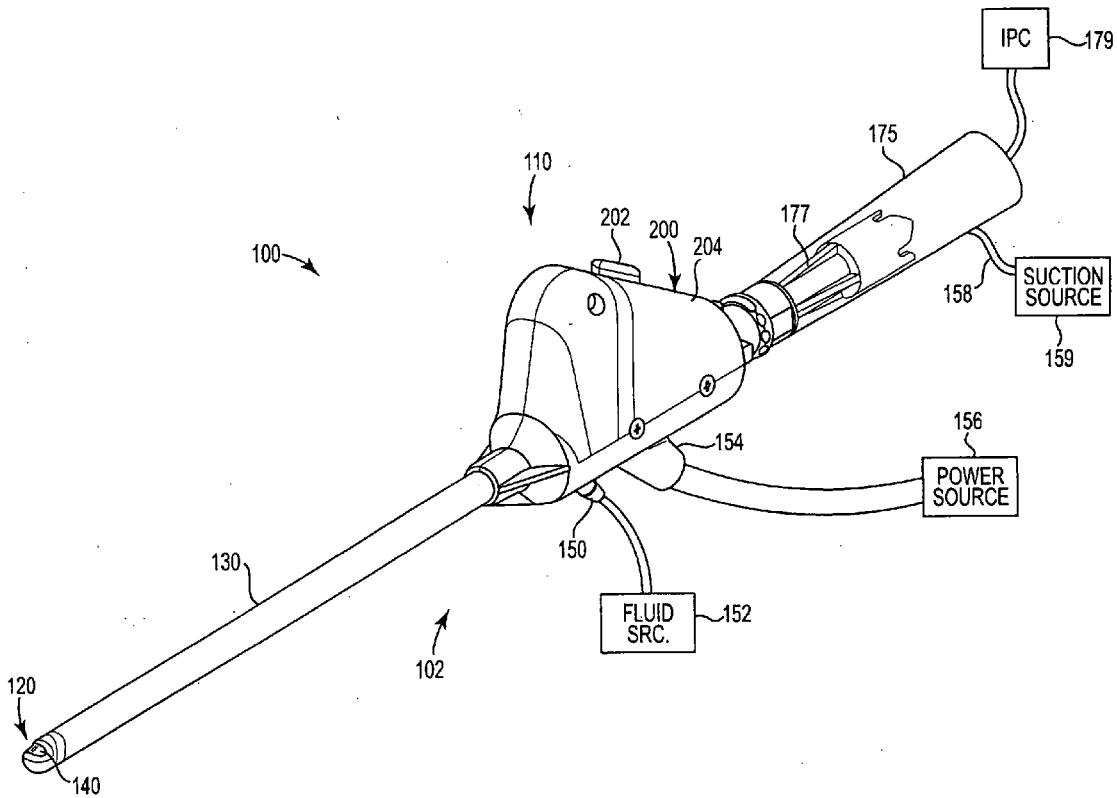
An electrosurgical device having a tubular outer shaft and an inner shaft is disclosed. The tubular outer shaft includes an axis and a distal end region. The distal end region includes a distal-most tip and a cutting edge defining a window in the outer shaft proximal along the axis to the distal-most tip. The inner shaft inner shaft coaxially maintained within the outer shaft such that the inner shaft is movable about the axis with respect to the outer shaft and wherein a portion of the inner shaft is exposed in the window of the outer shaft. A first electrode is disposed on the outer shaft in a region proximal along the axis to the window, and a second electrode is electrically isolated from the first electrode and disposed on the inner shaft. The second electrode is exposed in the window of the outer shaft.

(21) Appl. No.: **14/579,579**

(22) Filed: **Dec. 22, 2014**

Related U.S. Application Data

(60) Provisional application No. 61/920,412, filed on Dec. 23, 2013, provisional application No. 61/933,521, filed on Jan. 30, 2014.



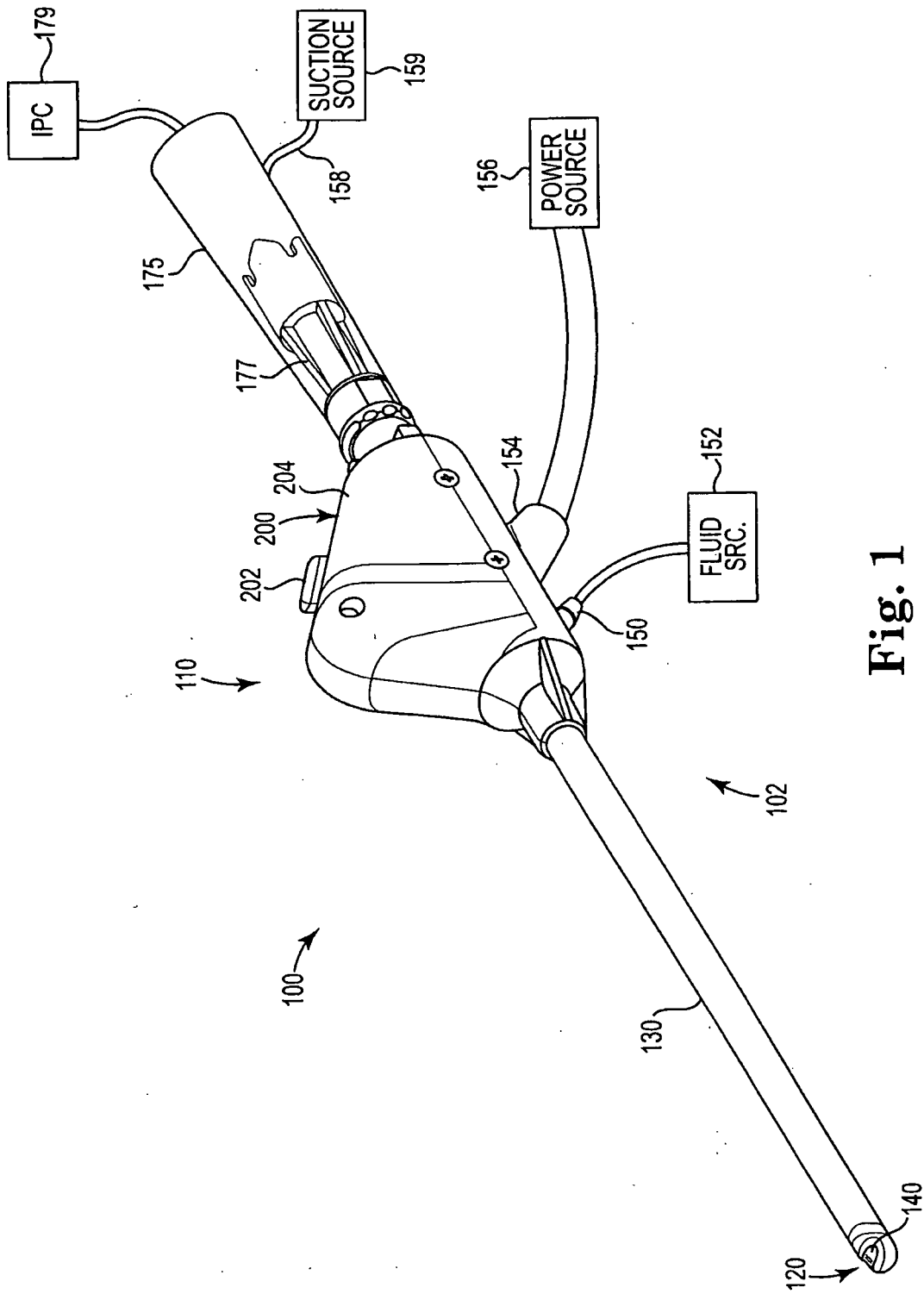


Fig. 1

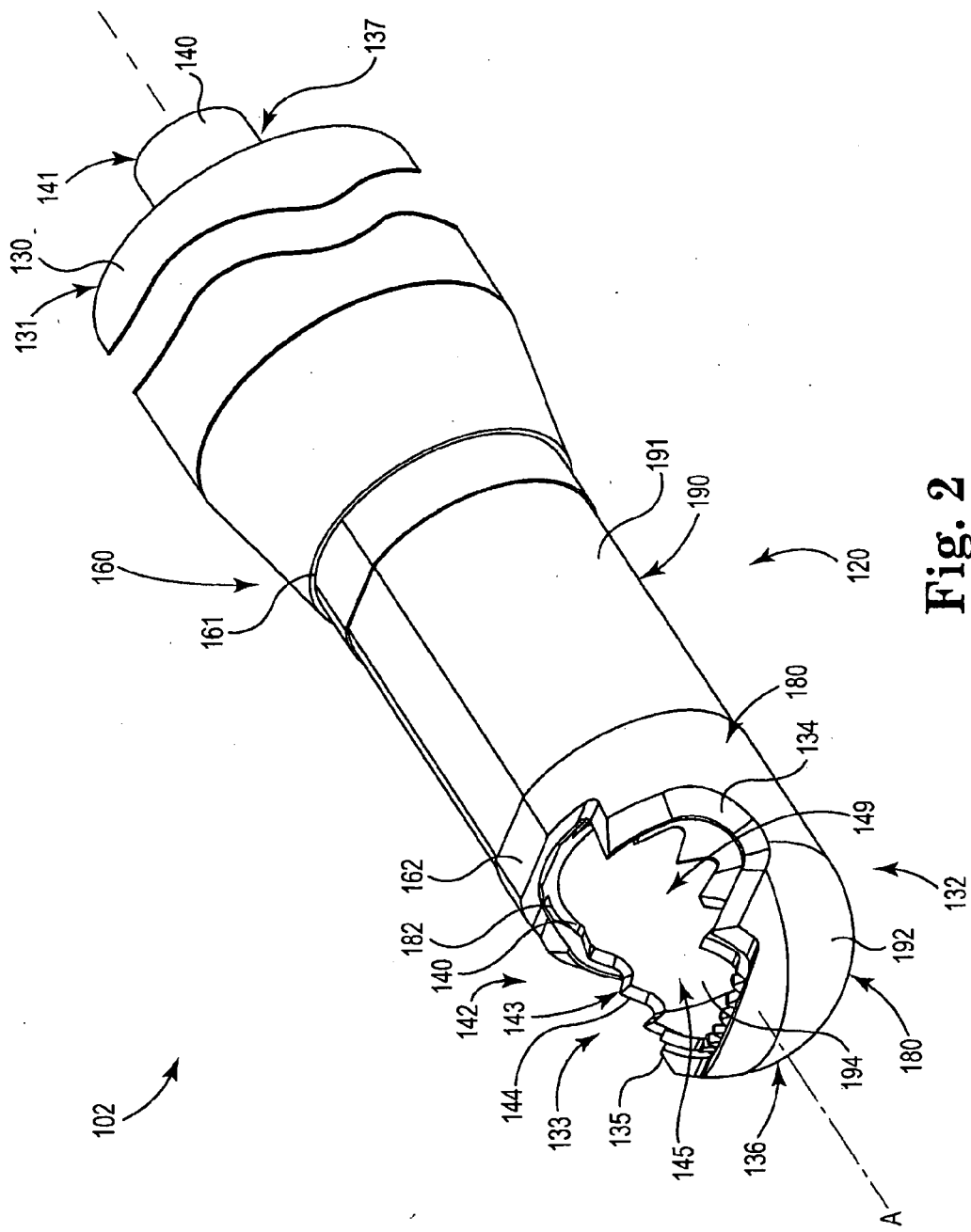


Fig. 2

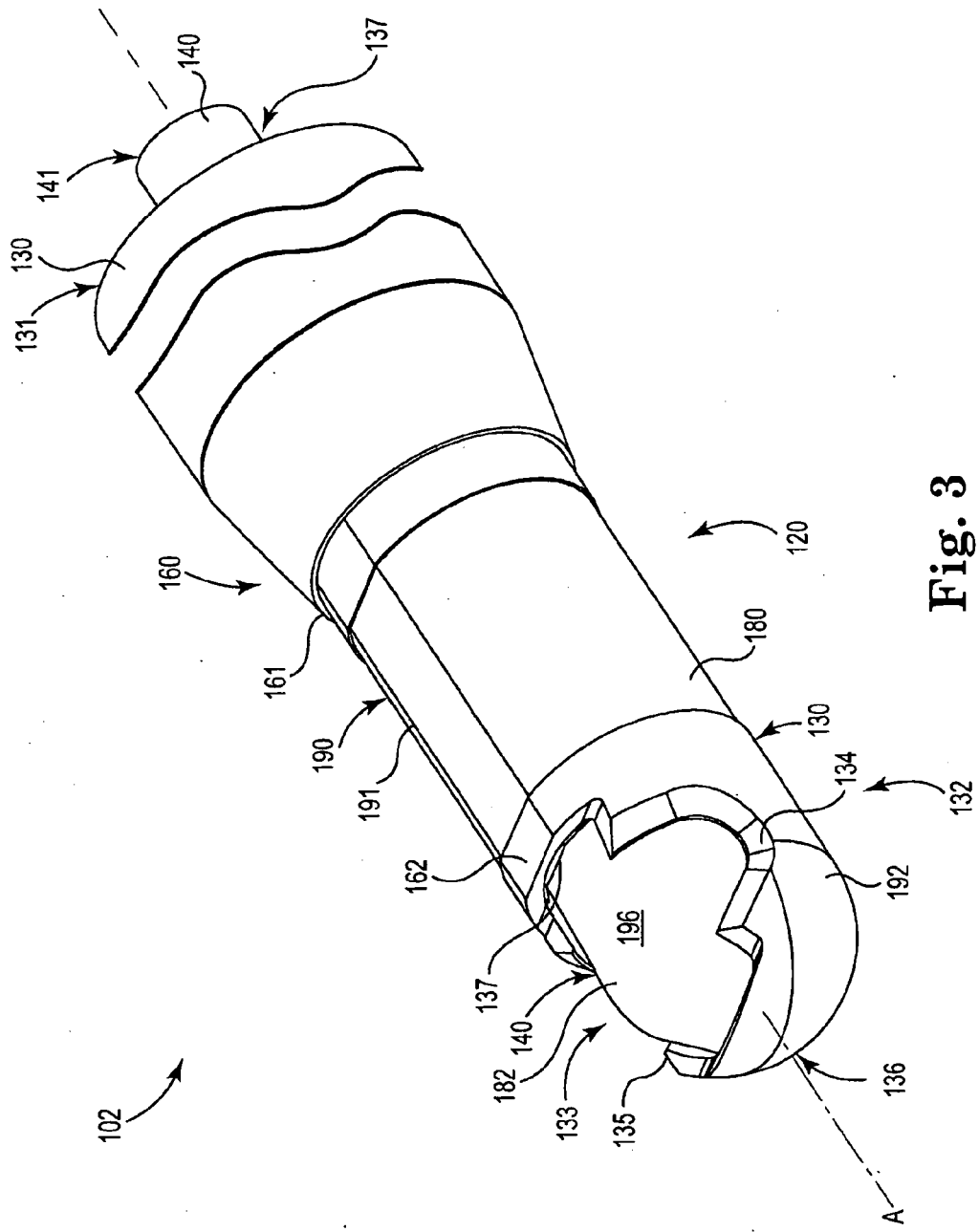


Fig. 3

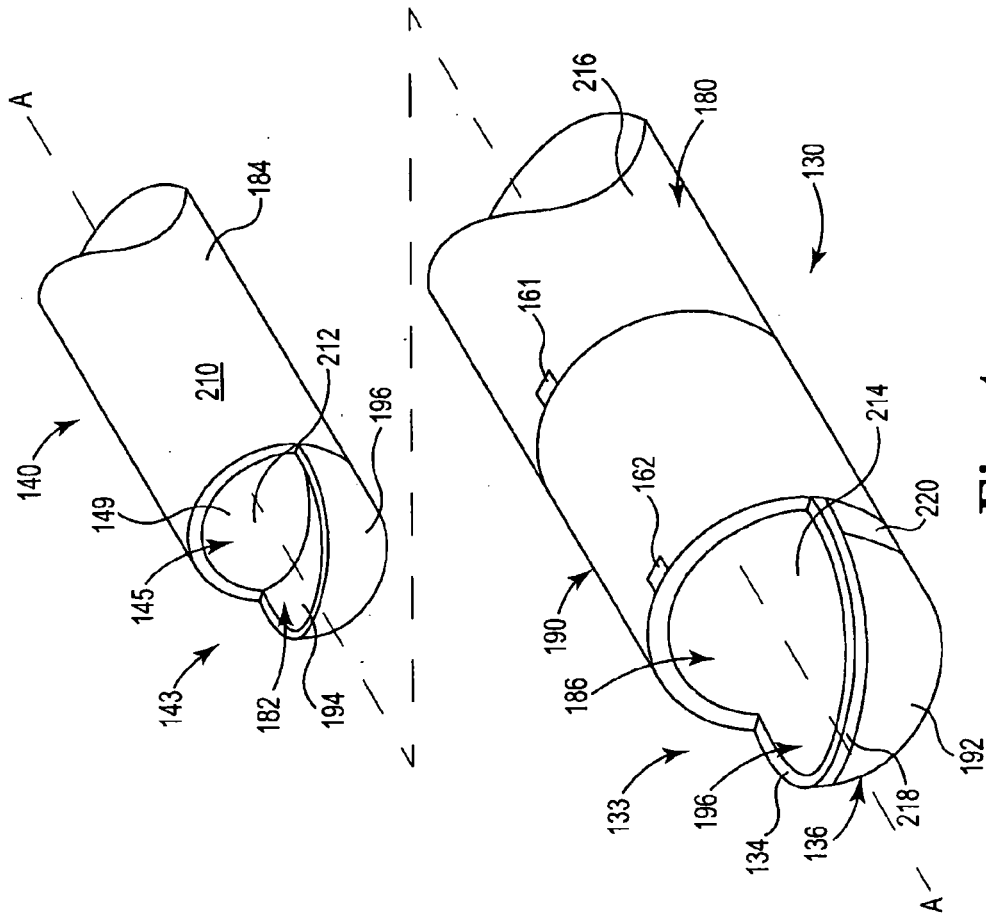


Fig. 4

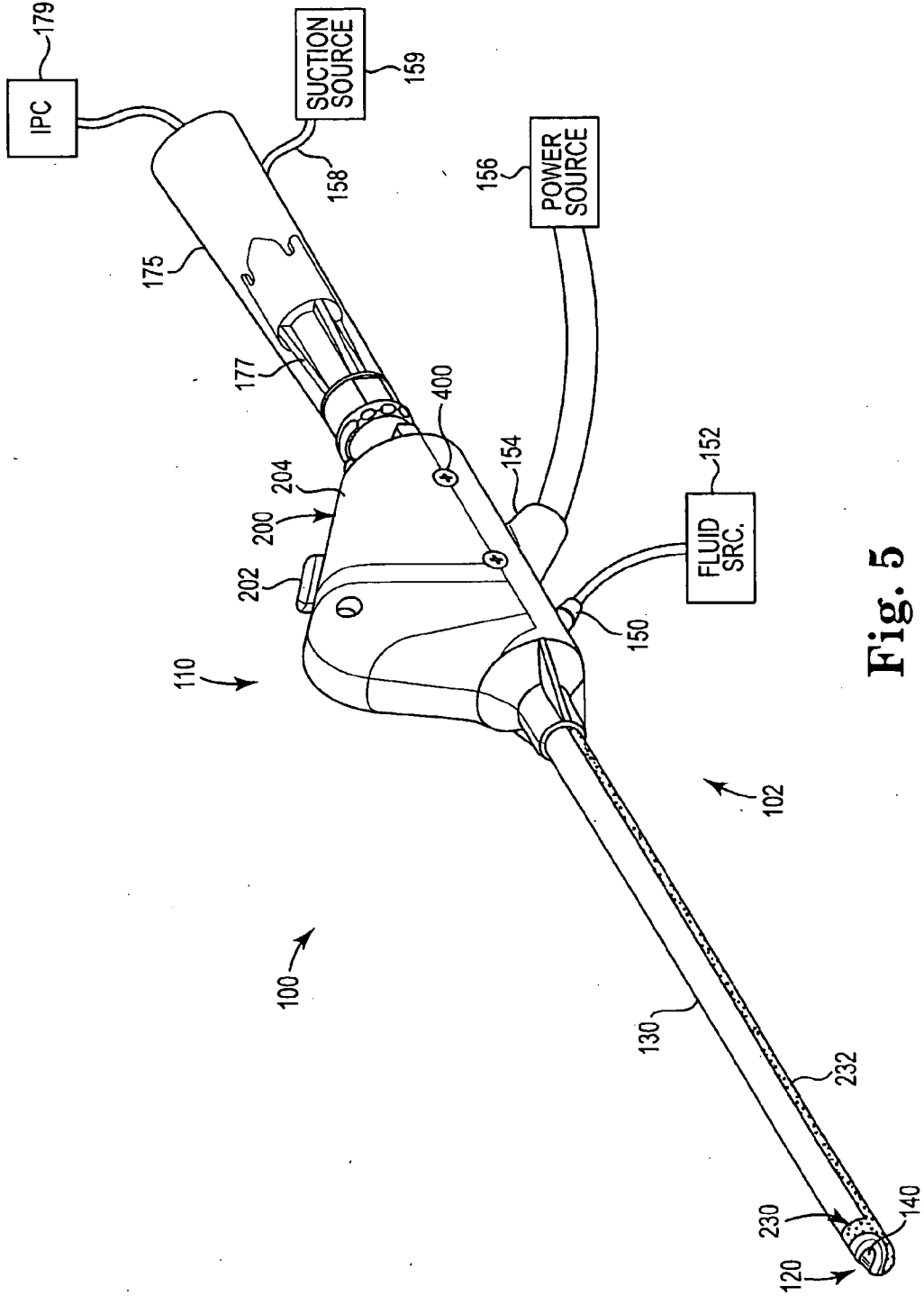


Fig. 5

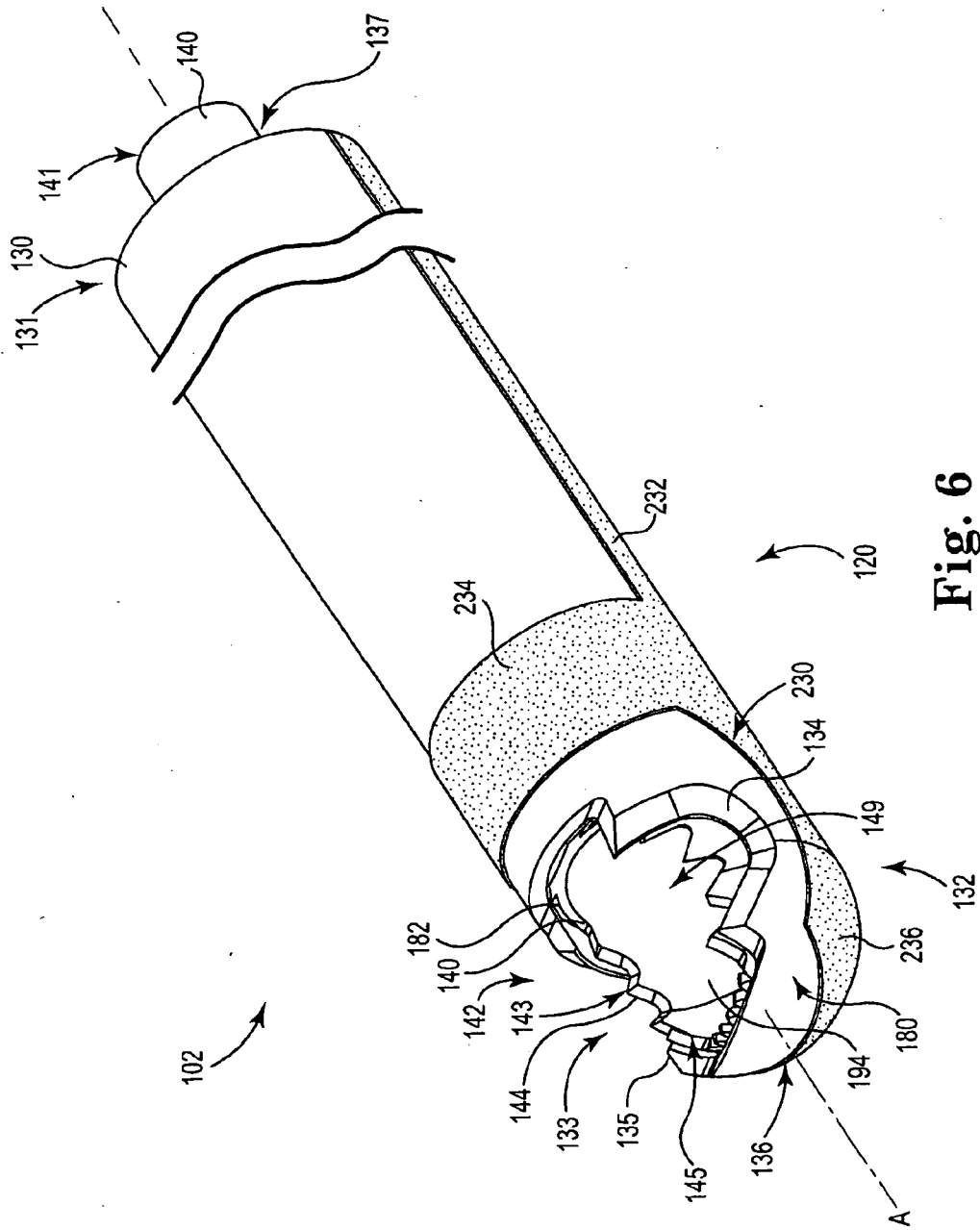


Fig. 6

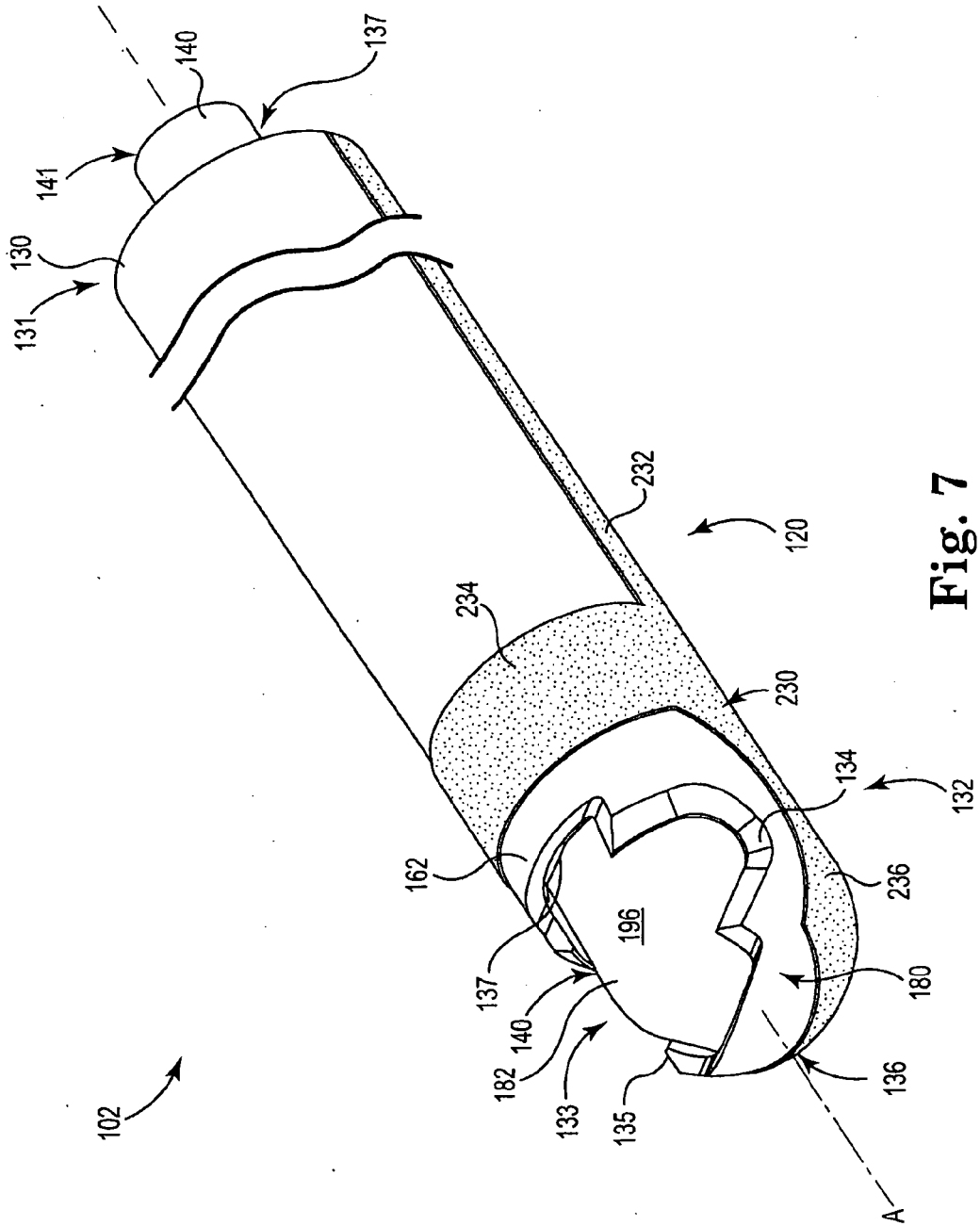


Fig. 7

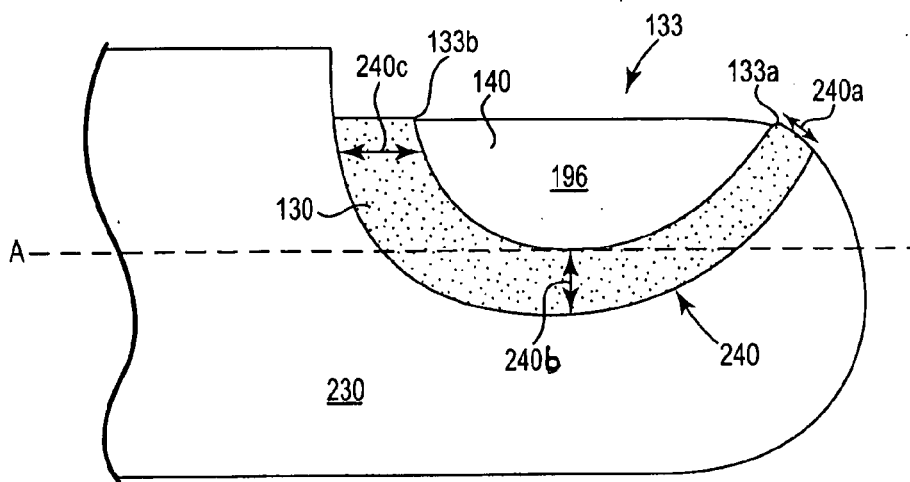
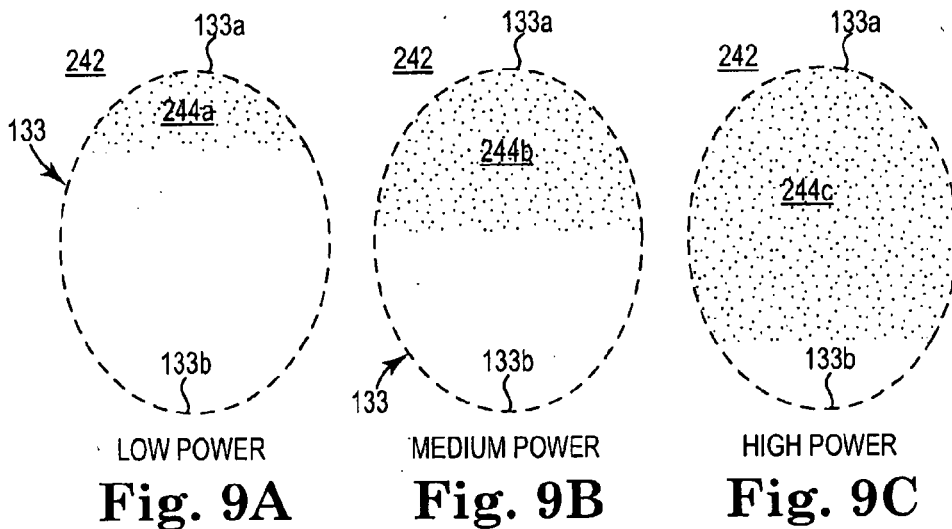


Fig. 8



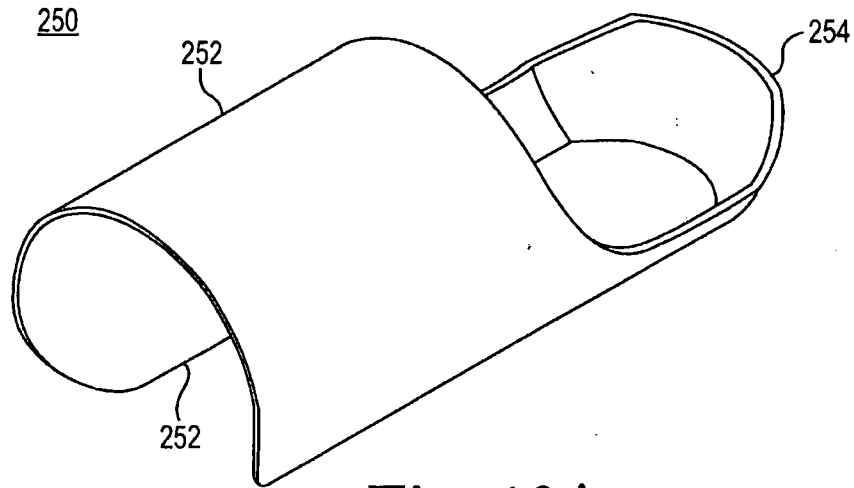


Fig. 10A

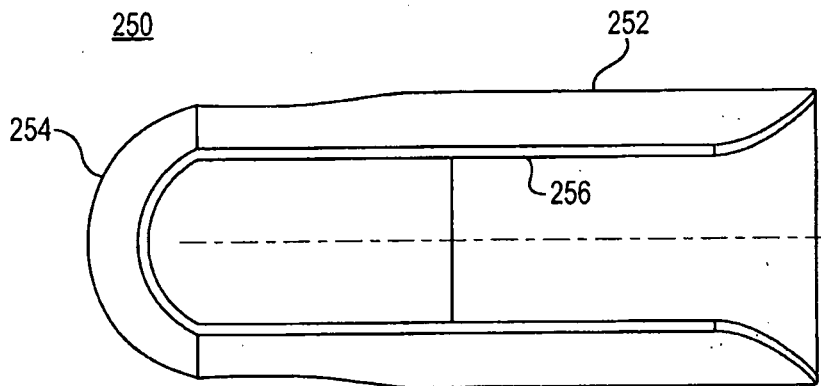


Fig. 10

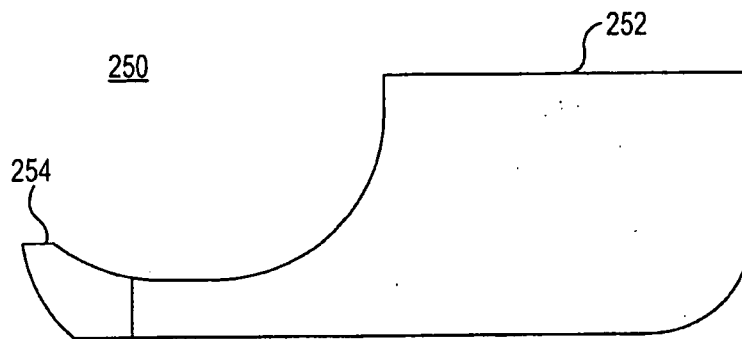


Fig. 10C

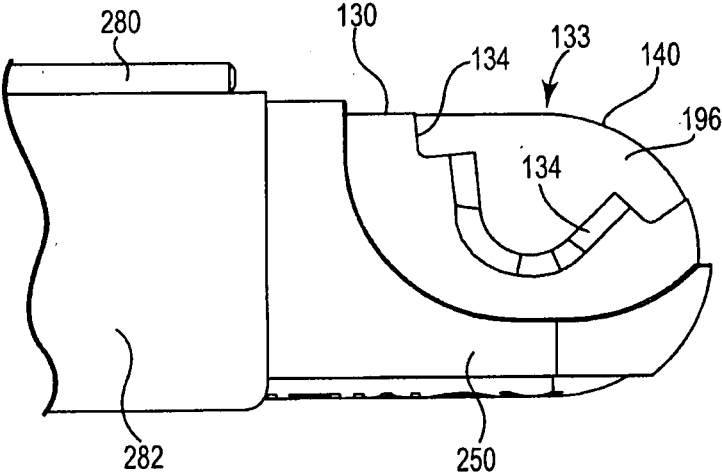


Fig. 11

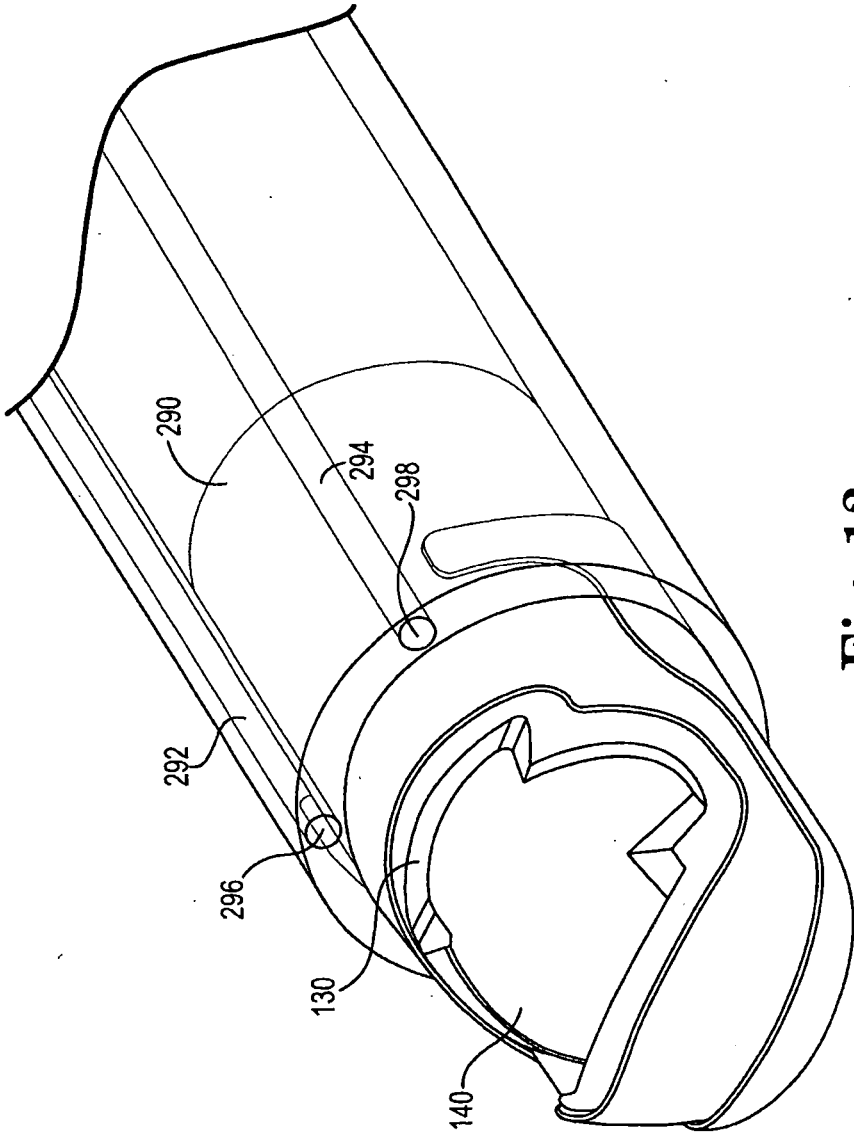


Fig. 12

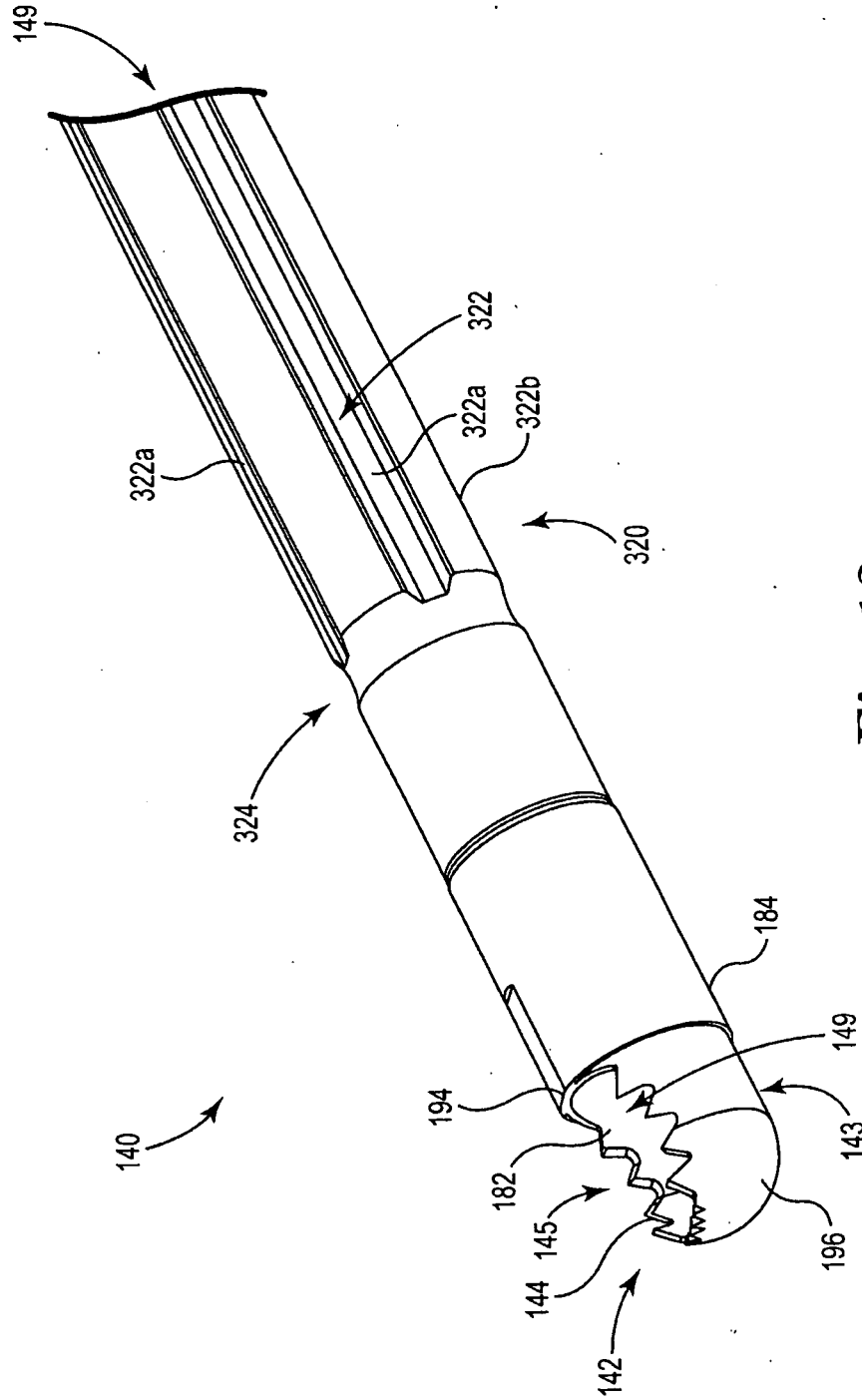


Fig. 13

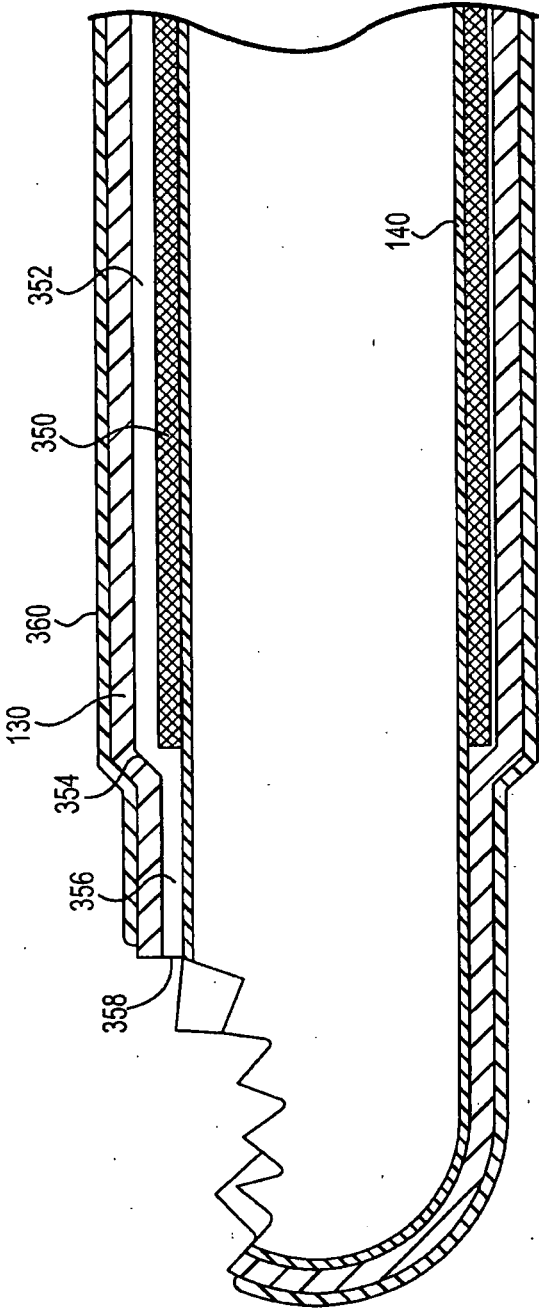


Fig. 14

ELECTROSURGICAL CUTTING INSTRUMENT

CROSS REFERENCE TO RELATED APPLICATIONS

[0001] This application claims the benefit of U.S. Provisional App. Ser. Nos. 61/920,412, filed Dec. 23, 2013 and 61/933,521, filed Jan. 30, 2014, the contents of which are both hereby incorporated by reference in their entirety.

BACKGROUND

[0002] The disclosure relates to instruments or tools used in performing surgery on a patient. More particularly, the disclosure relates to cutting instruments using electrodes to seal or cauterize tissue.

[0003] Clinicians use surgical instruments, including debriders such as microdebriders, to shave, cut, resect, abrade, or remove tissue, bone, or other body materials from a surgical site during surgery including endoscopic surgery. An example of such an instrument includes a rotating cutting blade on an elongated tube. The elongated tube is fit within an elongated outer tube having a cutting window exposing the cutting blade. The cutting blade is rotated within and with respect to the outer tube. The outer tube and inner tube are coupled to a handpiece. The handpiece typically includes a motor coupled to inner tube to rotate the cutting blade with respect to the handpiece. In one example, an actuator on the handpiece controls the rotation of the motor. A clinician is thus able to manipulate the location and rotation of the cutting blade to remove material from the surgical site. In some examples, a vacuum is applied through the inner tube to remove material that is cut with the blade. Many instruments also supply an irrigation fluid to the surgical site. The surgical instruments provide precise mechanical cutting at a surgical site through a low or minimally invasive incision or entry point in the patient.

[0004] One issue presented with surgical cutting instruments such as debriders involves the ability to control bleeding. If bleeding is not controlled, blood can obscure the view of the surgical site, adversely affect the precision of the cutting or severing tissue, and prolong the surgery. Too much blood loss can cause trauma to the patient that may require a blood transfusion. Electrosurgical instruments are often used to control bleeding in such circumstances. Electrosurgical instruments can be used to cauterize, coagulate/desiccate or simply reduce blood flow by controlling electrosurgical energy applied to the tissue. Small blood vessels, e.g., those having a diameter of less than about two millimeters, can be coapted through coagulation, i.e., the process of desiccating tissue where the tissue cells are ruptured and dried. Larger blood vessels may be coapted through sealing, i.e., the process of liquefying the collagen in the tissue so that it reforms into a fused mass. In some instances, a second surgical device is used to control bleeding either before or after body material is cut. Some electrosurgical cutting instruments include the ability to cut body material and control bleeding with the same device.

SUMMARY

[0005] This summary is provided to introduce a selection of concepts in a simplified form that are further described below in the Detailed Description. This summary is not intended to

identify key features or essential features of the claimed subject matter, nor is it intended to be used to limit the scope of the claimed subject matter.

[0006] In one aspect, the disclosure is directed to an electrosurgical device having a tubular outer shaft and a tubular inner shaft. The tubular outer shaft includes an axis and a distal end region. The distal end region includes a distal-most tip and a cutting edge defining an outer shaft window proximal along the axis to the distal-most tip. The tubular inner shaft is coaxially maintained within the outer shaft such that the inner shaft is movable about the axis with respect to the outer shaft. The inner shaft includes an outer surface having a toothed edge defining an opening. The opening exposes an inner surface of the inner shaft in the window of the outer shaft when the opening is aligned with the window. A first electrode is disposed on the outer shaft in a region proximal along the axis to the window. A fluid distribution point is disposed on the outer shaft in a region proximal along the axis to the first electrode. The fluid distribution point emits fluid across the first electrode and toward the distal-most end. A second electrode electrically is isolated from the first electrode. The second electrode is disposed on the inner shaft and exposed in the window of the outer shaft. The second electrode includes a first portion disposed on the outer surface of the inner shaft and a second portion disposed on the inner surface of the inner shaft.

[0007] In another aspect, an electrosurgical device includes an outer shaft defining a lumen and a distal end defining a window in the outer shaft. An inner shaft is rotatably disposed within the lumen of the outer shaft. The inner shaft defines a distal portion, wherein the distal portion defines a cutting window in the inner shaft. A conductive ink trace is positioned on the outer shaft and an electrode is electrically connected to the conductive ink trace and positioned on the outer shaft such that insulating material is positioned between the inner shaft and the electrode.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

[0008] The accompanying drawings are included to provide a further understanding of embodiments and are incorporated in and constitute a part of this specification. The drawings illustrate embodiments and together with the description serve to explain principles of embodiments. Other embodiments and many of the intended advantages of embodiments will be readily appreciated, as they become better understood by reference to the following detailed description. The elements of the drawings are not necessarily to scale relative to each other. Like reference numerals designate corresponding similar parts.

[0009] FIG. 1 is a schematic perspective view of a system illustrating an example electrosurgical cutting device.

[0010] FIG. 2 is a schematic perspective view illustrating an example distal end region of the electrosurgical cutting device of FIG. 1 in a first configuration.

[0011] FIG. 3 is a schematic perspective view illustrating an example distal end region of the electrosurgical cutting device of FIG. 1 in a second configuration that is different than the first configuration.

[0012] FIG. 4 is schematic exploded view illustrating features of components of the electrosurgical cutting device of FIG. 1.

[0013] FIG. 5 is a schematic perspective view of another example system illustrating an electrosurgical cutting device.

[0014] FIG. 6 is a schematic perspective view illustrating an example distal end region of the electrosurgical cutting device of FIG. 5 in a first configuration.

[0015] FIG. 7 is a schematic perspective view illustrating an example distal end region of the electrosurgical cutting device of FIG. 5 in a second configuration that is different than the first configuration.

[0016] FIG. 8 is a schematic side view of a distal end region of an electrosurgical cutting device having a gap between electrodes that increases from a distal end to a proximal end of a cutting window.

[0017] FIGS. 9A-9C schematically illustrate effects created on tissue for varying levels of power using the distal end region illustrated in FIG. 8.

[0018] FIGS. 10A-10C are different views of an example electrode formed prior to assembly to an outer shaft of a device.

[0019] FIG. 11 is a side view of an example distal end region of an electrosurgical cutting device having external tubing forming an irrigation channel for fluid delivery.

[0020] FIG. 12 is a perspective view of an example distal end region of an electrosurgical cutting device with irrigation channels formed within a molded sleeve surrounding an outer shaft.

[0021] FIG. 13 is a perspective view of an example inner shaft of an electrosurgical cutting device having features for fluid delivery.

[0022] FIG. 14 is a side sectional view of a distal end region of an electrosurgical cutting device including an irrigation channel formed between an outer tube and an intermediate tube.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION

[0023] In the following Detailed Description, reference is made to the accompanying drawings, which form a part hereof, and in which is shown by way of illustration specific embodiments or examples in which the invention may be practiced. It is to be understood that other examples may be utilized and structural or logical changes may be made without departing from the scope of the present disclosure. The following detailed description, therefore, is not to be taken in a limiting sense, and the scope of the present invention is defined by the appended claims. It is to be understood that features of the various exemplary embodiments described herein may be combined with each other, unless specifically noted otherwise.

[0024] Surgical instruments such as debriders are suitable for a variety of surgical applications including ear, nose, and throat (ENT) procedures. Sinus procedures are challenging due to the proximal location of sensitive organs such as the eyes and brain and due to the small size of the surgical site. Example procedures include ethmoidectomies, turbinectomies, uncinectomies and others that can be used to target polyps and tumors.

[0025] Embodiments of electrosurgical cutting devices discussed below may comprise two modes: a cutting or debridement mode and a sealing or hemostasis mode and the two modes can be mutually exclusive, i.e., hemostasis is achieved via energy delivery to tissue while cutters of shafts are not active or cutting. As described in more detail below, the cutting or debridement mode includes rotation or oscillation of inner and outer shaft cutters to cut tissue positioned therebetween. In the hemostasis mode, energy may be advantageously delivered to electrodes simultaneously with a fluid

such as saline to achieve an optimal tissue effect by delivering controlled thermal energy to tissue.

[0026] In general, FIGS. 1-4 and associated description generally describe utilizing separate electrodes associated with inner and outer shafts, respectively, in the sealing or hemostasis mode. FIGS. 5-7 and associated description generally describe utilizing one electrode associated with the inner shaft and one electrode positioned external an outer shaft. FIGS. 8-14 and associated description describe additional features that can selectively be utilized within devices described herein.

[0027] During hemostasis mode, electrodes comprise bipolar electrodes and may comprise wet or dry electrodes. The electrodes may be used to deliver any suitable energy for purposes of coagulation, hemostasis or sealing of tissue. The electrodes are particularly useful with fluid such as saline provided by a fluid source which may be emitted near an outer shaft opening. In one embodiment, the outer shaft opening is fluidly connected to an outer shaft lumen (not shown) positioned between an interior surface of the outer shaft and an exterior surface of the inner shaft.

[0028] Other arrangements for carrying fluid to a distal end of devices can be used, for example an external lumen coupled external to the outer shaft and fluidly connected to the fluid source. In any event, fluid can be delivered to or proximate the opening of the outer shaft and interact with the electrodes. In this manner, the electrodes can advantageously provide Transcollation® sealing of tissue when used with the Transcollation® sealing energy supplied by the Aquamantys System, available from the Advanced Energy Division of Medtronic, Inc. With respect to “wet” RF coagulation technology, a variety of different technologies can be utilized, including technology for sealing tissue described in U.S. Pat. Nos. 6,558,385; 6,702,810; 6,953,461; 7,115,139; 7,311,708; 7,537,595; 7,645,277; 7,811,282; 7,998,140; 8,048,070; 8,083,736; 8,216,233; 8,348,946; 8,361,068; and 8,475,455 (the entire contents of each of which is incorporated by reference). These patents describe bipolar coagulation systems believed suitable for use in the present invention. Other systems for providing a source of energy are also contemplated.

[0029] When fluid from the fluid source is provided to the distal end, the fluid may travel between the outside diameter of the inner shaft and the inside diameter of the outer shaft to the distal end of the device. Fluid travels distally down the outer shaft and may “pool” in an area defined by the opening of outer shaft. Pooling of fluid at the electrodes allows for effective interaction between the fluid and the electrodes which in turn can provide effective and advantageous sealing of tissue, and in particular may provide effective Transcollation® sealing of tissue. Other approaches to fluid delivery can also be utilized.

[0030] With specific reference to FIG. 1 illustrates a system 100 that includes an electrosurgical device 102 having a proximal end region 110 and a distal end region 120. The device 102 includes tubular, or hollow, outer shaft 130 and a tubular, or hollow, inner shaft 140 coaxially maintained within the outer shaft 130. The distal end region 120 is configured to engage the surgical site. A portion of the inner shaft 140 is exposed at distal end region 120. The distal end region 120 includes a mechanical cutting element, such as a blade, and a bipolar electrode to provide for coagulating blood vessels during hemostasis. In one example, at least the exposed portion of the inner shaft 140 is movable with respect to the outer shaft 130 to effect mechanical cutting at the surgical site. The

distal end region 120 typically includes a low profile as it is often inserted through an incision in the patient.

[0031] In the example, proximal end region 110 includes a handle or handpiece 175 and an actuator 200 remote from the distal end 120 and thus remote from the surgical site such as outside of the patient. A clinician can grasp the handpiece 175 and can control the system 100 or operate the device 102 at least in part through the actuator. The actuator 200 includes a button 202 carried on a housing 204. In the example, the handpiece 175 and the actuator housing 204 are coupled together and affixed to the outer shaft 130 such that the outer shaft does not move with respect to the handpiece 175 and actuator housing 204. Examples are contemplated, however, where the outer shaft 130 can rotate with respect to the housing 204 and inner shaft 140.

[0032] The proximal end region 110 also includes a hub 177 coupled to inner shaft 140. In the example, the hub 175 is disposed within the handpiece 175 and is configured to move the inner shaft 140 with respect to the outer shaft 130. The device 102 may be coupled to a driving mechanism or motor, which may be included as part of an integrated power console, or IPC, 179 for driving the hub 177 and specifically for controlling rotation or oscillation of inner shaft 140 with respect to the handpiece 175.

[0033] Proximal end region 110 also includes a fluid source connector 150 for connection to a fluid source 152. In one example, the fluid source 152 can include a bag of fluid coupled to flexible delivery tubing to carry the fluid to connector 150. The fluid is conveyed along the shafts 130, 140 and is emitted from an opening at the distal end region 120. The hub 177 may be made isolated from the fluid source connector through the application of a silicon O-ring disposed around the inner shaft 140 proximal to the fluid source connector 150 and distal to the hub 177 or by other mechanisms. In one example, the fluid includes saline and can include physiologic saline such as sodium chloride (NaCl) 0.9% solution. Saline is an electrically conductive fluid, and other suitable electrically conductive fluids can be used. In other examples, the fluid may include a nonconductive fluid, such as deionized water, which may still provide advantages over using no fluid.

[0034] A pump (not shown) can be used to convey fluid from fluid source 152 to the electrosurgical device 102 and control fluid flow. In one example, delivery tubing is passed through the pump. The pump in one example is a peristaltic pump such as a rotary peristaltic pump or a linear peristaltic pump and can be used to convey the fluid through the delivery tubing by way of intermittent forces placed on the external surface of the delivery tubing. Peristaltic pumps are often preferred because the mechanical elements of the pump places forces are placed on the external surface of the delivery tubing and do not come into direct contact with the fluid, which can reduce the likelihood of fluid contamination. Other examples of system 100 might not include a pump, and fluid can be provided to the electrosurgical device 102 via gravity.

[0035] Proximal end region 110 also includes a power source connector 154 for connection to a source of electrical energy indicated as power source 156. Power source 156 provides electrical energy, such as radio-frequency (RF) energy via insulated wires to the power source connector 154. The power source connector 154 is in electrical communication with conductors along the elongated portions of the shafts 130, 140 to electrodes at the distal end region 120. In

one example, the elongated portions of the outer and inner shafts 130, 140 are conductive and carry the RF energy from the power source 156 to electrodes at the distal end region 120. In one example of power source 156 includes a generator configured for use with one or more electrosurgical devices. An example generator is available under the trade designation Aquamantys® and provides a type of RF sealing energy technology available under the trade designation Transcollation® from Medtronic Advanced Energy of Portsmouth, N.H., United States. Examples of suitable generators and flow rate controllers are described in U.S. Pat. No. 7,815,634, and published U.S. Pat. Application Nos. 2001-0032002; 2006-0149225 and 2005-0090816, which are incorporated by reference into this disclosure.

[0036] Proximal end region can also include a suction source connector 158 for connection to a suction source 159. The suction connector 158 is in fluid communication with an opening in the distal end region 120. Fragments of body materials cut with the device 102 and fluids can be removed from the surgical site through the opening in the distal end region via the suction source 159.

[0037] FIGS. 2 and 3 illustrate schematic perspective views of outer shaft 130 and inner shaft 140 of device 102 in different configurations. In particular, FIG. 2 illustrates the device 102 with inner shaft 140 in a first open configuration with respect to outer shaft 130. FIG. 3 illustrates the device 102 with inner shaft 140 in a second closed configuration with respect to outer shaft 140.

[0038] FIGS. 2 and 3 illustrate elongated inner shaft 140 coaxially maintained within elongated outer shaft 130 along axis A. The outer shaft 130 includes an elongated portion that extends from a proximal end 131, which can be connected to housing 204, to a distal end 132 that includes an opening such as window 133 and a distal-most tip 136. An outer shaft cutting edge 134 defines window 133. In the example, the outer shaft cutting edge 134 includes cutting teeth 135. The outer shaft 130 may be rigid, malleable, or include combinations including a rigid portion and a malleable portion. The inner shaft 140 includes an elongated portion that extends from a proximal end 141, which can be connected to hub 177, to a distal end 142. A portion of the distal end 142 is exposed to the surgical site through window 133 of outer shaft 130.

[0039] A lumen 137 forms an irrigation channel between the outer shaft 130 and the inner shaft 140 that is configured to carry fluid between an outer surface of the inner shaft 140 and an inner surface of the outer shaft 130. Fluid is emitted from the distal end region 120 at distribution point 160. In one example, the outer shaft 130 includes more than one distribution points, such as proximal distribution point 161 and distal distribution point 162 that are spaced-apart from each other. In the example, distribution points 161 and 162 are aligned along longitudinal axis A on the outer surface 180 of the outer shaft 130. Fluid from distribution point 161, as well as distribution point 162, generally flows axially along the outer surface 180 towards window 133 of the outer shaft 130.

[0040] One or more outer shaft electrodes 190 can be disposed along the outer surface 180 of the outer shaft 130 in the distal end region 120. In the example, an electrode 191 is exposed on the outer surface 180 of the outer shaft 130 between fluid distribution point 161 and the window 133 of the outer shaft 130 in the path of fluid flow. More particularly, the electrode 191 can be exposed on the outer surface 180 between proximate fluid distribution point 161 and distal distribution point 162. The electrode 191 can be formed as a

patch of a conductive element in electrical communication with the power source connector 150 or, as illustrated, a conductive element along the entire circumference of the outer surface 180 between the distribution point 161 and window 133.

[0041] The electrode 191 can also be in electrical communication with a second electrode 192 disposed around the distal-most tip 136 and on the outer surface 180 of the outer shaft 130 opposite from window 133. Electrode 192 in the example on the outer surface 180 is spaced-apart from outer shaft cutting edge 134. In the example, electrodes 191 and 192 are configured to be part of the same active pole or return pole.

[0042] FIG. 2 illustrates inner shaft 140 in a first configuration, or open position, with respect to outer shaft 130 such that an inner shaft cutting edge or inner cutter 143 is exposed to window 133. Inner cutter 143 includes cutting teeth 144 and defines an inner shaft window or opening 145. An inner surface 182 of the inner shaft 140 is exposed to the surgical site in the open position. The inner surface 182 defines a lumen 149 axially extending along the elongated inner shaft 140. Fluid from distribution point 161 and distribution point 162 can collect on the inner surface 182 of the inner shaft 140 within lumen 149.

[0043] The device 102 can be used to remove body matter and fluids from the surgical site while the outer and inner shaft cutters 134 and 143 are in the open position. For example, the inner shaft and outer shaft cutters 134, 143, respectively, may move relative to one another in oscillation, rotation, or both, via the hub 177 to mechanically cut body matter. In one example, outer shaft cutter 134 may remain stationary relative to the handpiece 175 and actuator housing 204 while the inner shaft cutter 143 rotates about longitudinal axis A of the device to cut body matter. Also, the outer shaft 130 and the inner shaft 140 can be locked in the open position. The clinician can also manipulate the device 102 so that the distal end region moves along the longitudinal axis A, rotates about the longitudinal axis A, or otherwise to cut body matter with teeth 144 without rotating the inner shaft 140 with respect to the outer shaft 130.

[0044] The inner shaft opening 145 is fluidly connected to an inner shaft lumen 149 that extends from the inner shaft opening 145 to the proximal end 141 of inner shaft 140 and may be fluidly connected with the suction source 159 through suction source connection 158. When the inner shaft 130 is in the open position, body matter cut via inner and outer shaft cutters 143, 134 and fluid, such as fluid emitted from distribution points 161 and 162 is aspirated into the inner shaft lumen 149 through the inner shaft opening 145 upon application of suction source 159 to remove body material and fluid from the surgical site.

[0045] One or more electrodes, such as inner shaft electrode 194 can be disposed on the inner surface 182 of the inner shaft 140 in the distal end region 120. In the example, electrode 194 is exposed on the inner surface 182 of inner shaft 140 in the region axially distal to the distal fluid distribution point 162 on the outer surface 180 of the outer shaft 130. In another example, the electrode 194 is exposed on inner surface 182 of the inner shaft 140 in the region at least distal to the proximal-most inner shaft edge 143 or proximal-most portion of the inner shaft window 145. In one example, the inner shaft electrode 194 is electrically isolated from the outer shaft electrode 190, such as electrodes 191 and 192. In another example, the outer shaft 130 is electrically isolated

from the inner shaft 140. The inner shaft electrode 194 is in electrical communication with the power source connector 150 and forms an electrode pole opposite the pole of the outer surface electrode 190. For example, if the outer surface electrode 190 is the active electrode then the inner surface electrode 194 is the return electrode in the bipolar configuration.

[0046] FIG. 3 illustrates the inner shaft 140 in a second configuration, or closed position, with respect to the outer shaft 130. Inner shaft 140 is rotated about longitudinal axis A within the outer shaft 130 such that the inner shaft cutter 143 is completely shielded from exposure. For example, the inner shaft in the closed position can be rotated 180 degrees with respect to inner shaft relative to the outer shaft in the open position. The inner shaft cutter 143 in one example, is facing the interior of the outer shaft 130 opposite from the outer shaft window 133 and an outer surface 184 of the inner shaft 140 is exposed in the window 133. In some examples, the longitudinal edges of window 133 do not extend 180 degrees radially around the circumference of the outer shaft 130. In this case, the inner shaft 140 can be rotated less than 180 degrees from the open position to be in the closed position. In one example, the inner shaft 140 can be locked in the closed position.

[0047] One or more electrodes, such as electrode 196, can be disposed on the outer surface 184 of the inner shaft 140. In the example, electrode 196 is exposed in the window 133 while the inner shaft 140 is in the closed position. In the example, electrode 196 is exposed on the outer surface 184 of inner shaft 140 in the region axially distal to the distal fluid distribution point 162 on the outer surface 180 of the outer shaft 130. In another example, the electrode 196 is exposed on outer surface 184 of the inner shaft 140 in the region at least longitudinally distal to the proximal-most inner shaft edge 143 or proximal-most portion of the inner shaft window 145. In one example, the electrode 196 on the outer surface 184 is in electrical communication with shaft electrode 194 on the inner surface 182 of the inner shaft 140. Electrode 196 is also electrically isolated from the outer shaft electrode 190, such as electrodes 191 and 192. Electrodes 194, 196 are in electrical communication with the power source connector 150 and form an electrode pole opposite the pole of the outer surface electrode 190. For example, if the outer surface electrode 190 on the outer shaft 130 is the active electrode then the electrodes 194, 196 on the inner shaft 140 are the return electrodes in the bipolar configuration.

[0048] In one example, RF energy is delivered to tissue through electrodes while the inner shaft 140 is in the closed position without attendant risk that the cutting teeth 144 of the inner shaft 140 will diminish the efforts to achieve hemostasis. Device 102 may thus comprise two modes: a cutting or debridement mode and a sealing or hemostasis mode and the two modes may be mutually exclusive. In other words, hemostasis is achieved via RF energy delivered to tissue while cutters 134, 143 are not active or cutting. Further, RF energy may be advantageously delivered simultaneously with the fluid such as saline to achieve an optimal tissue effect by delivering controlled thermal energy to tissue. In other examples, RF energy may be delivered to electrodes during cutting mode while the cutters 134, 143 are actively cutting so that cutting or debridement mode is not exclusive of sealing or hemostasis mode. Still further, the inner shaft 140 may be locked in an open position during sealing or hemostasis mode in order for fluid to collect and be suctioned from lumen 149.

[0049] FIG. 4 schematically illustrates outer shaft 130 and inner shaft 140. Inner shaft 140 includes inner cutter 143

defining inner shaft opening **145**, as illustrated schematically. Inner shaft **140** also includes inner surface **182** forming lumen **149** and outer surface **184**. The inner surface **182** exposes inner surface electrode **194** and outer surface **184** exposes outer surface electrode **196**. Outer shaft **130** includes distal-most tip **136** and cutting edge **134** to define window **133**, also as illustrated schematically. Outer shaft **130** also includes outer surface **180** and, as illustrated, inner surface **186**.

[0050] Inner and outer shafts **130** and **140** are preferably constructed from a metal such as titanium, copper, tantalum, molybdenum, tungsten, or stainless steel, or another conductive material that can withstand forces used to cut body materials and repeated sterilizations in high temperature autoclaves or other suitable medical-grade materials. If the shafts **130**, **140** are intended for single use, shafts **130**, **140** can be constructed from a conductive medical-grade material that can withstand forces used to cut body materials and temperatures used in hemostasis.

[0051] Inner and outer shafts **130** include an electrically isolating material capable of withstanding use and cleaning conditions. The conductive inner and outer surfaces **182**, **184** of the inner shaft **140** are selectively covered with an insulator **210**, **212**, respectively. The conductive outer and inner surfaces **180**, **186** of the outer shaft **130** are selectively covered or coated with an insulator **214**, **216**, respectively. Insulators **210**, **212**, **214**, **216** can be one or more medical-grade insulating polymer formed from fluorinated ethylene propylene (FEP), polytetrafluoroethylene (PTFE), parylene or any other material suitable as a non-conductive or electrically insulative material. In one example, the coating includes polyaryletherketones (PAEK) polymer thermoplastic such as polyetheretherketone (PEEK) polymer thermoplastic. One particularly suitable and medical-grade PEEK polymer thermoplastic coating is available under the trade designation Vicote from Victrex Manufacturing Ltd. of Thornton Clevellys, Lancashire, United Kingdom. The polymer thermoplastic can be dispersed on the surfaces **180**, **182**, **184**, and **186** as either a powder or aqueous solution to form coatings on the surfaces **180**, **182**, **184**, and **186**.

[0052] Electrodes, such as electrodes **190** (electrodes **191**, **192**), **194**, and **196**, are formed on the outer and inner shafts **130**, **140**. In one example, the region of outer and inner shafts **130**, **140** are configured to serve as electrodes and are not coated. In one example, the not coated regions are masked during the coating and the masks are later removed to expose uncoated regions of the shafts **130**, **140** configured to act as electrodes. In another example, the shafts **130**, **140** are coated, and the coating is later removed from shafts **130**, **140** to expose the regions configured to act as electrodes. Still further, some combination of masking and coating removal is used to form the not coated regions configured to act as electrodes.

[0053] FIG. 4 illustrates an example where the entire inner surface **186** of outer shaft **130** is coated with an insulator **214** thus electrically isolating the outer shaft **130** from the inner shaft **140**. The outer surface **180** of the outer shaft **130** is coated along the elongated portion to the proximal end **131** with insulator **216**. At the distal end region **120**, the outer surface **180** of the outer shaft **130** is exposed and not coated between about the fluid distribution point **161** and the window **133**. Alternatively, the outer surface **180** can be exposed and not coated between the fluid distribution points **161**, **162**.

FIG. 4 illustrates the entire circumference of the outer surface **180** is exposed and not coated from the fluid distribution point **161** to the window **133**.

[0054] FIG. 4 also illustrates an example where the outer surface **180** of the outer shaft **130** around distal-most tip **136** and the side opposite window **133** is exposed and not coated forming electrode **192**. Electrode **192** is illustrated as spaced-apart from window **133** by a strip of coating serving as insulator **218** along the distal parts of the cutting edge **134**. In one example, an insulator **219** at least partially separates electrodes **191** and **192**.

[0055] In the examples above, the inner shaft **140** is electrically isolated from the outer shaft **130**, and the inner shaft **140** can be left uncoated. In one example, however, the inner and outer surfaces **182**, **184** of inner shaft **140** are coated to help focus the RF field and to electrically isolate the hub **177** from the inner shaft **140**. In one example, the elongated portions of the inner and outer surfaces **182**, **184** of inner shaft **140** are left coated. In the distal end region **120**, the inner and outer surfaces **182**, **184** include exposed and not coated region **226**.

[0056] Electrodes are formed from the exposed and not coated regions. In one example, a conductive metal can be affixed to the exposed and uncoated regions to serve as electrodes **190** (electrodes **191**, **192**), **194**, and **196**. In another example, the exposed and not coated regions can serve as the electrodes themselves. In the preferred example, the exposed and not coated regions serve as the electrodes, and the inner shaft **140** is disposed within the outer shaft **130** during construction of the device **102**. Energized electrodes and the fluid dispersed from distribution points **161** or **161** and **162** combine to form a field of RF energy that extends 360 degrees around the distal end region **120** and further distal to the distal-most tip **136** to coapt blood vessels during hemostasis.

[0057] FIG. 5 illustrates an alternative example embodiment of system **100** including an alternative embodiment of device **102** having proximal end region indicated generally at **110** and distal end region indicated generally at **120**. FIGS. 6 and 7 illustrate schematic perspective views of the distal end region **120** having outer shaft **130** and inner shaft **140** of device **102** in different configurations. In particular, FIG. 6 illustrates the device **102** with inner shaft **140** in a first open configuration with respect to outer shaft **130**. FIG. 7 illustrates the device **102** with inner shaft **140** in a second closed configuration with respect to outer shaft **140**. In the illustrated embodiment, a bipolar electrode configuration is utilized to deliver the RF energy, with the electrodes **194** and/or **196** of the inner shaft **140** serving as a first electrode and an outer electrode **230**, positioned on an outer surface of outer shaft **130**, serving as a second electrode. Electrode **230** is electrically coupled to the power source **156** through a trace or lead **232** connected to source connector **154**.

[0058] There are various different arrangements for connection between the source connector **154** and each of the electrodes **194/196** and **230**. In one embodiment, cell **200** maintains one or more clips that provide independent electrical connection to the electrodes **194/196** and **230**. In an alternative embodiment, connector **154** can include an external wire that electrically couples to trace **232** while cell **200** maintains a connection to electrode **194/196**. Regardless of the particular connection arrangement, electrodes **194/196** and **230** create a bipolar arrangement such that RF energy can be delivered to tissue proximate the distal end portion **120**. In such an arrangement, one of the electrodes **194/196**, **230**

serves as a source electrode whereas the other of the electrodes **194/196, 230** serves as a return electrode. Tissue proximate the end portion serves to complete a circuit that includes the electrodes **194/196, 230**. Current flowing through this tissue assists in promoting hemostasis of the tissue.

[0059] Similar to the examples above, the outer shaft **130** may be rigid or malleable or combinations thereof and may be made of a variety of metals and/or polymers or combinations thereof, for example may be made of stainless steel. In one embodiment, the outer shaft **130** is coated with a suitable insulating material such as a hydrophobic polymer. Example insulating materials include parylene, fluorinated ethylene propylene (FEP), polytetrafluoroethylene (PTFE), or any other material suitable as a non-conductive or electrically insulative material. In an alternative embodiment, the outer shaft **130** is formed of an insulating material. The conductive trace **232** is applied to the outer shaft **130** such that the insulating material is positioned between the conductive trace **232** and the outer shaft **130**. To this end, the electrode **230** and conductive trace **232** are electrically insulated from the inner shaft **140**. Conductive trace **232** can be formed of various suitable conductors as desired. In one embodiment, the outer shaft **130** includes an outer insulating layer and the conductive trace **232** is a flexible circuit formed of a conductive ink (e.g., silver, copper, nickel, gold and/or combinations thereof) that is printed directly on the insulating layer of the outer shaft **130**.

[0060] The conductive trace **232**, in one embodiment, can further be coated with a suitable insulating material as discussed above, so as to prevent unintended transfer of electrical energy proximate the trace **232**. When a conductive ink is used to form the electrode **230** and conductive trace **232**, a suitable mask can be used to cover the electrode **230** prior to coating trace **232** with an insulating material. As such, a portion not coated with the insulating material forms the electrode **230**.

[0061] In the embodiment illustrated, electrode **230** defines a proximal band **234** coupled to trace **232** and extending continuously around the outer shaft **130**. In other embodiments, band **234** extends partially around outer shaft **130**. For example, the band **234** can extend around 90°, 120°, 180°, 240°, 270° or other value about the outer shaft **130**, when viewed from distal tip **136**. In any event band **234** is positioned proximal the window **133** in the illustrated embodiment. Extending from the band **234** is a distal extension **236** that is coupled with the band **234** so as to control the current density applied to tissue proximate electrode **230**. The distal extension **236** illustratively extends around a lower circumference of the outer shaft **130** and extends proximate the cutting window **133**. As desired, distal extension **236** can be configured to cover a portion of the outer shaft **130** proximate the cutting window **133** or extend to encompass an entirety of the outer shaft **130** without creating a continuous connection with the inner shaft **140**, and in particular the electrodes **194/196**. In one embodiment, electrode **230** is formed of a conductive ink (e.g., silver, copper, nickel, gold and/or combinations thereof) that is printed onto outer shaft **130**. In addition, portions of electrode **230** can be coated with an insulating material as desired to alter delivery of electrical energy through electrode **230**.

[0062] Electrode **230** can be sized to define a surface area that controls an amount of current density applied to tissue that comes into contact or is proximate electrode **230** during delivery of RF energy. Electrode **230** can further be posi-

tioned on outer shaft **130** in various positions and be formed by various sizes as desired. For instance, the electrode **230** can be positioned such that a portion or an entirety of the electrode **230** is proximal the window **133** along axis A. The electrode **230** can be formed on a top of outer shaft **130** on the same side as the window **133**. In other instances, the electrode **230** can extend both proximal and distal the window **133**. In a further embodiment, electrode **230** is spaced apart from the distal tip **136** and in a specific embodiment an entirety of the electrode **230** is proximal a distal-most portion of window **133**. The distal extension **236**, in one embodiment, is shaped to follow a contour of window **133**, or otherwise establish a uniform spacing between the electrode **230** and the electrode **196**. In a specific embodiment, the electrode **230** is uniformly spaced from the inner shaft **140**, providing a gap between an edge of the electrode **230** and an edge of the cutting window **133** (and thus electrode **196**). The uniform space or gap between the electrode **230** and the inner shaft is 0.04 inches, in one embodiment, which assists in providing a desired tissue impedance and reduces sensitivity to relative orientation between window **133** and target tissue.

[0063] Having described different embodiments generally shown in FIGS. **1** and **5**, FIGS. **8-14** illustrate various alternative features that can be used in these embodiments, either singularly or in combination. In one example feature, schematically illustrated in FIG. **8**, a gap **240** (e.g., comprised of an insulating material) between the electrode **196** and the electrode **230** (i.e., about window **133**) is selected to vary along axis A from a distal end **133a** of the window **133** to a proximal end **133b** of the window so as to change an effect on tissue created between the electrodes **196** and **230** during delivery of electrical energy. In the illustrated embodiment, a width of the gap **240** (i.e., a minimum distance between electrodes **196** and **230**) increases from a first distal width **240a** at the distal end **133a**, to a second intermediate width **240b** to a third proximal width **240c** at the proximal end **133b**. The first width **240a** positioned at the distal end **133a** is the smallest gap, whereas the second width **240b** positioned proximal the distal end **133a** is larger than the first width **240b** and the third width **240c** positioned at the proximal end **133b** is larger than the second width **240b**. Due to the varying widths between the electrodes **196** and **230**, the effect on tissue will vary.

[0064] As schematically illustrated in FIGS. **9A-9C**, when using the varying gap **240**, the effect on tissue can vary by the power delivered to a target site **242** when the window **133** (illustrated in dashed lines to relative positioning between the target site **242** and the window **133**). In particular, illustrated is an effect using a low power delivery (FIG. **9A**), a medium power delivery (FIG. **9B**) and a high power delivery (FIG. **9C**). In FIG. **9A**, the low power delivered to one of the electrodes **196/230** (i.e., to the active electrode) is sufficient to create an effect **244a** that is a small portion of the window **133**, concentrated at the distal end **133a**. As power is increased to medium power illustrated in FIG. **9B**, an effect **244b** is created that is larger than effect **244a**. Further still, upon increasing to high power illustrated in FIG. **9C**, an effect **244c** is created that is larger than both effect **244a** and **244b**. The effects **244a-244c** created are a function of the widths **240a-240c**, respectively. As more power is provided to the active electrode, a larger amount of energy can be delivered through tissue of the target site **242**. As such, a larger effect is created.

[0065] Another alternative feature includes an electrode positioned on outer shaft 130 that is formed prior to coupling with the outer shaft 130. For example, FIGS. 10A-10C illustrate an alternative electrode 250 formed of a unitary body and assembled to outer shaft 130. Electrode 250 is similar to electrode 230, forming a proximal band 252 and distal extension 254 coupled to the band 252. The distal extension 254 can be formed to create a uniform gap with a corresponding window 133 or to create a varying gap with the corresponding window 133 as discussed above. During assembly, electrode 250 is positioned over a distal end of the outer shaft 130 and a conductive trace (not shown) is positioned on the outer shaft 130 and electrically coupled to the electrode 250. As illustrated, electrode 250 partially extends around an outer diameter of the outer shaft 130 and defines a slot 256. The slot 256 is positioned over the shaft 130 to assemble the electrode 250 to the shaft 130. Electrode 250 can be formed of various conductive materials such as copper, copper alloys and the like.

[0066] In one example alternative of fluid delivery, shown in FIG. 11, fluid is provided external to the outer shaft 130, with electrode 250 (FIGS. 10A-10C) coupled thereto and inner shaft 140 positioned within the outer shaft 130 as discussed above. External tubing 280 forms an irrigation channel to deliver fluid to the distal end region. A heat shrink tubing 282 are applied to outer shaft 140. In particular, heat shrink tubing 282 is positioned over electrode 250 and outer shaft 130 to secure electrode 250 to outer shaft 130. Tubing 280 (e.g., formed of a hypotube) is positioned along the heat shrink tubing 282 and is positioned to deliver fluid proximate window 133. The tubing 280 can be used with various embodiments discussed above.

[0067] In yet a further embodiment of fluid delivery illustrated in FIG. 12, a molded sleeve 290 is positioned over the outer shaft 130. The sleeve includes first and second irrigation channels 292 and 294 formed therein and spaced apart from one another to deliver fluid to first and second distribution points 296 and 298, respectively. Each of the first and second irrigation channels 292 and 294 is fluidly coupled with the fluid source 152 (FIGS. 1 and 5).

[0068] FIG. 13 shows another schematic example of fluid delivery. The inner shaft 140 of the example includes an insulated elongated portion 320 and an exposed and not coated inner cutter 143. The elongated portion 320 includes at least one fluid distribution flute 322 formed in the outer surface 184 of the inner shaft 140. The example shows a plurality of fluid distribution flutes 322a, 322b, . . . 322n formed into the inner shaft 140 and spaced-apart from each other around the circumference of the outer surface 184. At least one reservoir 324 is formed into outer surface 184 the inner shaft 140 and connected to the fluid distribution flutes 322a, 322b, . . . 322n as illustrated. In the example, reservoir 324 extends along the circumference of the outer surface 184.

[0069] Fluid collected from the reservoir can be dispersed from distribution points 161 and 162 on the outer shaft 130. When the inner shaft 140 is disposed within outer shaft 130, the inner surface 186 of outer shaft 130 combine with distribution flutes 322a, 322b, . . . 322n and reservoir to form lumen 137 described above with respect to FIGS. 2 and 3. In another example, detents can be formed in the inner surface 186 of outer shaft 130 in addition to or instead of distribution flutes 322 and reservoir 324 to form lumen 137. If detents are formed into the inner surface 186 of outer shaft 130, the outer surface 184 of inner shaft 140 can optionally be made smooth.

[0070] In another embodiment of fluid delivery illustrated in FIG. 14, an intermediate or middle tube 350 is positioned between the outer shaft 130 and the inner shaft 140. An irrigation channel 352 is formed between the intermediate tube and the outer tube and fluidly coupled to the fluid source 152 (FIGS. 1 and 5). The outer tube can include a shoulder 354 that directs fluid from the irrigation channel 352 to a distribution channel 356. Ultimately, fluid exits via a distribution point 358 positioned between the outer tube and the inner tube. In the specific embodiment illustrated, an outer insulation layer 360 is provided over the outer shaft 130, with a corresponding electrode (not shown) positioned on an exterior of the insulation layer 360.

[0071] Various modifications and alterations to this disclosure will become apparent to those skilled in the art without departing from the scope and spirit of the disclosure. It should be understood that this disclosure is not intended to be unduly limited by the illustrative embodiments and examples set forth herein and that such examples and embodiments are presented by way of example only with the scope of the disclosure intended to be limited only by the claims set forth herein as follows.

1. An electrosurgical device, comprising:

- a tubular outer shaft having an axis and a distal end region, wherein the distal end region includes a distal-most tip and a cutting edge defining an outer shaft window proximal along the axis to the distal-most tip;
- a tubular inner shaft coaxially maintained within the outer shaft such that the inner shaft is movable about the axis with respect to the outer shaft and wherein the inner shaft includes an outer surface having a toothed edge defining an opening, wherein the opening exposes an inner surface of the inner shaft in the window of the outer shaft when the opening is aligned with the window;
- a first electrode disposed on the outer shaft in a region proximal along the axis to the window;
- a fluid distribution point disposed on the outer shaft in a region proximal along the axis to the first electrode, the fluid distribution point configured to emit fluid across the first electrode and toward the distal-most end; and
- a second electrode electrically isolated from the first electrode disposed on the inner shaft and exposed in the window of the outer shaft the second electrode including a first portion disposed on the outer surface of the inner shaft and a second portion disposed on the inner surface of the inner shaft.

2. The electrosurgical device of claim 1 wherein the inner surface of the inner shaft forms a lumen configured to be in fluid communication with a suction source.

3. The electrosurgical device of claim 1 wherein the outer surface of the inner shaft and an inner surface of the outer shaft form a lumen in fluid communication with the fluid distribution point.

4. The electrosurgical device of claim 3 wherein the lumen includes an axial distribution flute and a reservoir in the distal end region.

5. The electrosurgical device of claim 4 wherein the axial distribution flute and reservoir are formed into the outer surface of the inner shaft.

6. The electrosurgical device of claim 1 wherein the first electrode is in electrical communication with an electrode surface on the outer surface of the outer shaft distal to the first electrode and electrically isolated from the cutting edge.

7. The electrosurgical device of claim 1 wherein the inner shaft and outer shaft are formed from a conductive material and are coated with an electrically insulating material, wherein the first and second electrodes are exposed and uncoated regions of the outer and inner shafts.

8. An electrosurgical system, comprising:

a tubular outer shaft having an axis and a distal end region, wherein the distal end region includes a distal-most tip and a cutting edge defining a window in the outer shaft proximal along the axis to the distal-most tip;

an inner shaft inner shaft coaxially maintained within the outer shaft such that the inner shaft is movable about the axis with respect to the outer shaft and wherein a portion of the inner shaft is exposed in the window of the outer shaft;

a first electrode disposed on the outer shaft in a region proximal along the axis to the window;

a fluid distribution point disposed on the outer shaft in a region proximal along the axis to the first electrode, the fluid distribution point configured to emit fluid across the first electrode and toward the distal-most end;

a second electrode electrically isolated from the first electrode wherein the second electrode is disposed on the inner shaft and exposed in the window of the outer shaft; and

a power source coupled to the first and second electrodes to provide electrical energy such that one of the first and second electrodes is configured as an active bipolar electrode and the other of the first and second electrodes is configured as a return bipolar electrode.

9. A debridement device comprising:

an outer shaft defining a lumen and a distal end defining a window in the outer shaft;

an inner shaft rotatably disposed within the lumen of the outer shaft, the inner shaft defining a distal portion, wherein the distal portion defines a cutting window in the inner shaft;

a conductive ink trace positioned on the outer shaft; and an electrode electrically connected to the conductive ink trace and positioned on the outer shaft such that insulating material is positioned between the inner shaft and the electrode.

10. The debridement device of claim 9, wherein the insulating material comprises a coating positioned on the outer shaft.

11. The debridement device of claim 9, wherein the outer shaft is formed of the insulating material.

12. The debridement device of claim 9, wherein the electrode comprises silver ink.

13. The debridement device of claim 9, wherein each of the electrode and the inner shaft are selectively coupleable to an energy source.

14. The debridement device of claim 13, wherein the energy source comprises bipolar RF energy.

15. The debridement device of claim 9, wherein the outer shaft and inner shaft are configured to move relative to one another to mechanically cut tissue in a cutting mode.

16. The debridement device of claim 9, wherein the outer shaft lumen is configured to allow fluid flow between the inner shaft and the outer shaft.

17. The debridement device of claim 9, further comprising a button activation assembly comprising an electrical contact for providing electrical communication of the electrode and inner shaft with a source of energy.

18-23. (canceled)

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