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(54) **SIGNAL TRANSMISSION COMPONENTS FOR USE WITH MEDICAL DEVICES**

SIGNALÜBERTRAGUNGSKOMPONENTEN ZUR VERWENDUNG MIT MEDIZINISCHEN
VORRICHTUNGEN

COMPOSANTS DE TRANSMISSION DE SIGNAL DESTINÉS À ÊTRE UTILISÉS AVEC DES
DISPOSITIFS MÉDICAUX

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Description

Field of the Disclosure

[0001] The present disclosure relates generally to medical devices and systems. More particularly, embodiments of the disclosure relate to noise reduction components for use with electronic endoscopes, including, for example, endoscopes that are part of a medical imaging system.

Background of the Disclosure

[0002] Electrically charged objects, such as, for example, electrical medical equipment, may generate electromagnetic (EM) fields. EM fields may affect the behavior of other charged objects in the vicinity. Mathematical relationships, such as Maxwell's and Faraday's equations and the Lorentz force law, demonstrate that radiated EM fields can induce electric currents on nearby equipment. These induced currents are generally referred to as electromagnetic interference (EMI), and they may interfere with or corrupt electrical signals generated by nearby medical equipment. In a medical setting, such as an operating room or a physician's office, electrical equipment may generate EM fields that affect other medical instrumentation in the vicinity. While medical equipment may be regulated and tested according to industry standards in order to limit the magnitude of EM fields produced, EM fields and radiation may also be generated by other equipment present in a medical facility.

[0003] In the case of a digital endoscope, electrical equipment, such as imaging systems, including cameras located on a distal region for viewing an internal region, may be affected by such EM fields. The EM fields generated by surrounding equipment may couple with cables associated with a digital endoscopic camera, corrupting signals relayed to and from the camera. EM fields may also couple with electronic cables connecting distal endoscopic components, like the digital camera, to proximal electronics, for example, an imaging processor. Additionally, any other electrical components placed near the EM source may be corrupted.

[0004] This corruption from stray current, sometimes referred to as "airborne EMI," may have a detrimental effect on endoscopic medical equipment. Cables connecting the distal and proximal electronics of an endoscope may be particularly susceptible to corruption, because the conductors within the cables may act as long antennae, attracting electrical noise from the EM field. These cables may transmit video signal from a distally located endoscopic camera to proximal video processing equipment. In the case of endoscopic imaging equipment, the coupled EMI may corrupt video signal, causing image degradation or, in some instances, complete loss of video imaging. Thus, there exists a need to reduce EM field noise coupling to endoscopic cabling.

[0005] One method of reducing the effects of coupling

from airborne EMI to endoscopic cables involves twisting the individual cable conductors together. Twisting the conductors may uniformly expose each conductor to substantially the same noise. Electronic hardware and/or software may then be able to detect the similar signal components, i.e. noise, across each individual cable conductor, allowing the hardware and software to subtract that noise uniformly from the total signal output. However, twisting conductors or conductor pairs may not always be feasible. For example, some medical devices, such as endoscopes, may have size constraints to allow them to navigate narrow body lumens. Because twisting conductors may add additional bulk to the cables, this method of noise reduction may not be possible for some devices.

[0006] Another noise-reduction technique includes surrounding noise-sensitive cables with an EMI shield. Such shields may include, e.g., copper tape or EMI shielding paint, which may be painted on the cabling enclosure, for example. Adding EMI shielding may increase the cost of such devices, however, which is a concern particularly for disposable endoscopes. In some cases, the addition of an EMI shield may be difficult or impossible. For example, it may not be possible to coat the internal lumen of a catheter with EMI shielding paint.

[0007] Noise coupling may also occur through a conductive medium, for example, saline or bodily fluid. This source of noise coupling may be referred to as "conductively coupled noise." For example, if an electrical signal is applied to a volume of saline solution, a resulting signal can be measured on an electrode placed in contact with the saline. The saline acts as a conductive path, allowing the injected signal to couple with the electrode. For a medical device, such as an endoscope, bodily fluid or saline used for irrigation, for example, may surround portions of the internal electronic cabling when the endoscope is exposed to such fluidic environments. The conductivity of this fluid medium thus increases the potential for noise coupling between the fluid and the cables.

[0008] One method of decreasing conductively coupled noise is to reduce the amount of fluid in contact with the cabling. Placing the cabling in a separate, sealed lumen may prevent fluids from contacting the cabling. Yet, the size constraints of endoscopes may make sealing the cables difficult. For example, a wall between a visualization lumen of an endoscope and an irrigation and/or aspiration lumen may be thin, for example, to reduce size or increase flexibility. Consequently, the thin wall may be prone to processing defects and/or mechanical damage during a medical procedure. These defects may allow fluid from the irrigation and/or aspiration lumen to enter into the visualization lumen. When an electronic imaging endoscope is used, fluid may surround an electrical cable disposed in the visualization lumen and may fill available space between adjacent conductors of the electronic cable assembly. This may result in imaging signal degradation or failure. Additionally, manufacturing thin walls capable of increased fluid impermeability may

also increase the cost of medical devices.

[0009] Another method of reducing conductively coupled noise is to electrically insulate the signal conductors using insulation around the cable. However, the insulation must be of sufficient thickness to prevent noise from coupling to the internal conductors. As a result, using insulation may add to the space requirements of a medical device and therefore may not be feasible for use in smaller-diameter devices, such as endoscopes. Accordingly, a need exists for a means of insulating cables from environmental noise and/or fluid without increasing space requirements, decreasing flexibility, or increasing the cost of a digital imaging endoscope.

[0010] US 6 319 197 B1 relates to a medical system having an endoscope probe intubated into a body, a signal processing circuit for processing a signal for the probe and an electric source circuit insulated from a commercial electric source. A part of the signal processing circuit connected to the probe is isolated by an isolation circuit to secure the safety. An impedance element is also employed.

[0011] US 5 810 714 A relates to an endoscopic apparatus comprising a solid-state image pickup device installed in an insert assembly, a signal transmission member for conducting the electric signal into which the solid-state image pickup device photoelectrically converts an optical image, and a flexible tube-like metal member that makes up part of the cover of the insert assembly and/or a flexible tube-like metal member that constitutes part of the universal cord.

[0012] US 5 569 158 A relates to a shielding structure of an electronic endoscope apparatus. A signal transmission cable which connects a charge coupled device disposed at an end portion of an electronic endoscope to a processor unit is electrically shielded by a double shield composed by an inner shield and an outer shield.

[0013] EP 0 730 844 A1 relates to an electronic endoscope apparatus. The apparatus includes an electronic endoscope having arranged thereon a solid-state image pickup element as image pickup means at an insertion part. External devices such as a light source device for supplying an illumination light to the electronic endoscope, and a video processor for processing a video signal from the solid-state image pickup element of the electronic endoscope, and the like are provided. An electric connection part for electrically connecting the electronic endoscope and the video processor is provided at a connector part located at an end of a universal cord. The cord connects the electronic endoscope and the light source device. An electromagnetic interference countermeasure member is also additionally provided which covers at least one of the connector part, the universal cord and the external devices.

Summary

[0014] Embodiments of the present disclosure are directed to a medical device. The medical device may in-

clude an elongate member, having a proximal end and a distal end and at least two lumens extending therebetween. At least one of the lumens may be an imaging lumen configured to hold an imaging device, and an imaging device may be disposed inside the imaging lumen. A signal transmitting device may extend longitudinally through the imaging lumen. A distal end of the signal transmitting device may be operably coupled to the imaging device and a proximal end may be operably coupled to a processor. The processor may be located outside of the imaging lumen. The signal transmitting device may transmit signals between the imaging device and the processor. A grounded, braided catheter may be disposed within and extend the length of the elongate member, surrounding the imaging lumen.

[0015] In various embodiments, the medical device may include one or more of the following additional features: the imaging device may be a camera; the signal transmitting device may be a cable; the braided catheter may completely surround the circumference of the imaging lumen; the medical device may include an illumination lumen configured to house an illumination device, and an illumination device disposed within the illumination lumen; the braided catheter may completely surround the circumferences of both the illumination lumen and the imaging lumen; the braided catheter may be formed of a conductive material; the braided catheter may be connected to a floating ground or an earth ground; the medical device may include an antenna disposed within the elongate member and extending the length of the signal transmitting device; the antenna may be disposed within the imaging lumen; the antenna may be located adjacent to the signal transmitting device; the antenna may be formed of a conductive material and may be electrically grounded; and the antenna may be connected to the same ground as the braided catheter.

[0016] Further embodiments of the disclosure are directed to a medical device. The medical device may include an elongate member, having a proximal end and a distal end and at least two lumens extending therebetween. At least one of the lumens may be an imaging lumen configured to hold an imaging device, and an imaging device may be disposed inside the imaging lumen. At least one cable may extend longitudinally through the imaging lumen. A distal end of the at least one cable may be operably coupled to the imaging device and a proximal end may be operably coupled to a processor. The processor may be located outside of the imaging lumen. The at least one cable may transmit signals between the imaging device and the processor. The medical device may also include a non-conductive medium disposed in the imaging lumen and surrounding the cable.

[0017] In various embodiments, the medical device may include one or more of the following additional features: the non-conductive medium may be a fluid having a density higher than water and the fluid may be sealed within the imaging lumen; the medical device may include a grounded, braided catheter disposed within the elon-

gate member and surrounding the circumference of the imaging lumen; the medical device may also include a conductive antenna adjacent to the cable and extending the length of the cable.

[0018] Another embodiment of the disclosure relates to a medical device having an elongate member with a proximal end and a distal end and an imaging lumen extending therebetween. An imaging device may be disposed in the imaging lumen. At least one cable may be disposed within the imaging lumen. A distal end of the at least one cable may operably couple the imaging device and a proximal end may operably couple a processor. The at least one cable may transmit signals between the imaging device and the processor. The medical device may also include a conductive antenna extending the length of the at least one cable within the imaging lumen. The medical device may also include a braided catheter extending the length of the elongate member and disposed between an exterior wall of the elongate member and an exterior wall of the imaging lumen. The braided catheter may surround the circumference of the imaging lumen. The braided catheter and the antenna may be connected to an electrical ground.

[0019] In various embodiments, the braided catheter and the antenna may be configured to attract current from an electromagnetic field to provide a low-impedance pathway to the ground.

[0020] Additional objects and advantages of the embodiments will be set forth in part in the description that follows, and in part will be obvious from the description, or may be learned by practice of the embodiments. The objects and advantages of the invention will be realized and attained by means of the elements and combinations particularly pointed out in the appended claims.

[0021] It is to be understood that both the foregoing general description and the following detailed description are exemplary and explanatory only and are not restrictive of the invention, as claimed.

[0022] The accompanying drawings, which are incorporated in and constitute a part of this specification, illustrate embodiments of the invention and together with the description, serve to explain the principles of the invention.

Brief Description of the Drawings

[0023]

Figure 1 illustrates an exemplary medical imaging system, according to an embodiment of the present disclosure;

Figure 2 illustrates a longitudinal cross-sectional view of an endoscope component of the exemplary medical imaging system depicted in Figure 1;

Figure 3 illustrates an exemplary transverse cross-sectional view of an endoscope, according to an embodiment of the present disclosure;

Figure 4 illustrates another exemplary transverse

cross-sectional view of an endoscope, according to an embodiment of the present disclosure;

Figure 5A illustrates an exemplary transverse cross-sectional view of an endoscope, according to an embodiment of the present disclosure; and

Figure 5B illustrates a perspective view of the electronic cable assembly of the endoscope illustrated in Figure 5A.

Description of the Embodiments

[0024] Reference will now be made in detail to the exemplary embodiments of the present disclosure described below and illustrated in the accompanying drawings. Wherever possible, the same reference numbers will be used throughout the drawings to refer to same or like parts.

[0025] While the present disclosure is described herein with reference to illustrative embodiments for particular applications, it should be understood that the disclosure is not limited thereto. Those having ordinary skill in the art and access to the teachings provided herein will recognize additional modifications, applications, embodiments, and substitution of equivalents that all fall within the scope of the invention. Accordingly, the disclosure is not to be considered as limited by the foregoing or following descriptions.

[0026] Other features and advantages and potential uses of the present disclosure will become apparent to someone skilled in the art from the following description of the disclosure, which refers to the accompanying drawings.

[0027] Figure 1 illustrates an exemplary medical imaging system 10 and related components. The exemplary medical imaging system 10 may be used for therapeutic, observational, and/or diagnostic procedures. The term "medical imaging system" is used broadly to include all components and systems that may be used during a medical procedure.

[0028] Medical imaging system 10 may include an endoscope 3 configured for insertion into the body of a patient. While the disclosure refers to an endoscope, any suitable introduction sheath may be used, for example, a catheter, a guide tube, a trocar, a ureteroscope, a colonoscope, a laparoscope, or any suitable medical device. Endoscope 3 may be inserted into the body through any suitable opening, for example, a natural opening, surgical incision, or percutaneous opening. In the exemplary embodiment, medical imaging system 10 may also include a control unit 6, a display 11 operably connected to control unit 6, and endoscope 3 operably connected to control unit 6. Any suitable number or assortment of components may be included in medical imaging system 10. The components may be connected to one another or may be connected only to control unit 6. Such connections may be wireless or physical, or a combination of the two. Control unit 6 may include one or more devices, for example, a light source 7, imaging electronics 9, and

a fluid source 8. Control unit 6 may include any number or combination of suitable devices, including, but not limited to, data storage or processing, sensors or sensor feedback processing, steering controllers, and data input systems. These devices may be provided together in a single console or may be separately provided.

[0029] Endoscope 3 may be an electronic endoscope configured to allow a clinician to view internal body cavities of a patient and may be configured for insertion into narrow and/or tortuous body lumens. Endoscope 3 may be a disposable, single-use endoscope or may be reusable.

[0030] Endoscope 3 includes a proximal end, a distal end, and an elongate member 4 extending between the proximal and distal ends. For purposes of this disclosure, "proximal" refers to the end closer to the device operator during use, and "distal" refers to the end further from the device operator during use.

[0031] Elongate member 4 extends distally from a handle portion 2. Endoscope 3 may be rigid or flexible, or may have both flexible and rigid portions. Elongate member 4 may be formed of any suitable biocompatible material known to one of ordinary skill in the art. Such materials may include, but are not limited to, rubber, silicon, synthetic plastic, stainless steel, metal-polymer composites, and metal alloys of nickel, titanium, copper, cobalt, vanadium, chromium, aluminum, tantalum, and iron. In one embodiment, the material forming elongate member 4 may be a super-elastic or shape-memory material such as nitinol, which is a nickel-titanium alloy. Elongate member 4 may have any cross-sectional shape and/or configuration, and may be any dimension capable of being received in an endoscope, guide, or body cavity. Endoscope 3 and/or elongate member 4 may be steerable and may have areas of different flexibility or stiffness (e.g., to promote steerability).

[0032] As depicted in Figure 2, endoscope 3 and/or elongate member 4 may include one or more lumens extending between the proximal end and the distal end. Endoscope 3 may include, for example, a working lumen 34, an illumination lumen 35, an imaging lumen 36, and irrigation or aspiration lumens 31. The number, type, size, cross-sectional shape, and orientation of lumens may vary depending on the type of endoscope used or the type of procedure performed, and any suitable configuration of lumens may be used. Additionally, the lumens may be configured to receive various types of components, examples of which are described in more detail below. One or more lumens may be configured to movably receive various components, such as medical instruments or sensors, e.g., while some lumens may be configured to permanently house certain components. Some components may be configured to extend beyond a distal end of endoscope 3, while other components may remain housed within an interior region of a lumen. Each lumen may house one device, or may house multiple devices or no devices.

[0033] Working lumen 34 may be configured to receive

one or more medical instruments to guide the medical instruments to a working site within the body of a patient. Working lumen 34 may receive any suitable medical instrument, for example, a grasper, forceps, scissors, basket, cutting device, probe, or sensor. The medical instrument may or may not be configured to receive electrical current. One or more irrigation lumens 31 may be configured to deliver fluids, e.g., gas or liquids, from fluid source 8 to tissue adjacent the distal region of endoscope 3. In some embodiments, irrigation lumen 31 may be configured to suction fluid from a work site back into fluid source 8.

[0034] Illumination lumen 35 and imaging lumen 36 may be connected to and/or configured to receive suitable electrical imaging components. For example, illumination lumen 35 may be configured to receive an illumination device (not shown) to illuminate tissue adjacent a distal end of endoscope 3. The illumination device may be operably coupled to light source 7, which may include one or more light-emitting diodes or electrical filaments, for example, via an optical fiber or fiber bundle (not shown) extending through illumination lumen 35. In some embodiments, a fiber optic cable or light pipe may extend through illumination lumen 35 and may connect to light source 7.

[0035] An imaging device 32 may be disposed at a distal region of imaging lumen 36. Imaging device 32 may include, for example, a camera for capturing still or moving images, a lens, a digital imaging chip, or other image-receiving devices, which may transmit signals in an analog or digital format via cable 37. In an exemplary embodiment, imaging device 32 may include an image sensor, such as a CMOS imaging sensor, CCD, or other solid state device, and one or more lenses capable of producing electronic imaging signals. An exemplary imaging sensor may be configured for low light and/or low noise levels.

[0036] One or more electronic cables 37 may operably connect one or more imaging devices 32 to proximal imaging electronics 9. Electronic cable 37 may transmit imaging signals from imaging device 32 to, for example, a processor, a memory storage device, and/or a display 11. Signals relayed from imaging device 32 may directly transmit raw images to display 11, or the imaging signals may be processed first and then displayed. One or more displays 11 may be incorporated into control unit 6, or may be separate from control unit 6, for example at a separate location in the same room or in a location remote from control unit 6 and/or endoscope 3. Display 11 may be wirelessly or physically coupled to control unit 6. In some embodiments, imaging electronics 9 may also transmit a control signal to imaging device 32 via cable 37 to control various aspects of operation. For example, imaging electronics 9 may control or adjust the movement, location, aperture size, shutter speed, zoom, or any other operation of imaging device 32. Imaging electronics 9 may also be coupled to light source 7 or an illumination component in illumination lumen 35 to control

the amount of light provided for imaging device 32.

[0037] Cable 37 may be comprised of one or more conductors 38, as shown in Figure 3. In one embodiment, conductors 38 may be fine gage conductors between approximately 30 and 50 gage, for example. Conductors 38 may be formed of any suitable conductive, biocompatible material, e.g., metals, alloys, polymers, carbon, or any combination thereof. In the depicted exemplary embodiments, conductors 38 have a circular cross-section, however, conductors 38 may have any suitable cross-sectional shape, for example, rectangular or oval. Conductors 38 may be contained within insulation to form one cable. The exemplary figures depict one cable 37 with four conductors 38 arranged in linear fashion, but any suitable number of cables or configuration of conductors may be used. For example, conductors 38 may be twisted or may be arranged in a concentric or clustered configuration.

[0038] The insulation surrounding conductors 38 of cable 37 may be configured to exclude fluid when endoscope 3 is exposed to a fluidic environment. For example, the insulation material may completely surround each conductor 38 and may substantially fill any gaps between adjacent conductors 38. The insulation may be formed of any suitable material, for example rubber, silicone, polyurethane, ethylene, tetrafluoroethylene, polytetrafluoroethylene, polydimethylsiloxane, or any other non-conductive, biocompatible material.

[0039] As discussed above, airborne EMI and/or conductively coupled noise may affect cable 37, corrupting the imaging signals transmitted from imaging device 32 to imaging electronics 9. To reduce coupling caused by airborne EMI, elongate member 4 of endoscope 3 may include a braided or mesh catheter 33. Braided catheter 33 may form an outer layer of elongate member 4, or braided catheter 33 may be housed within an outer layer 30 of elongate member 4, as depicted in Figure 3. Braided or mesh catheter 33 may be formed of a suitable material for EMI shielding, e.g., stainless steel, copper, or a super-elastic or shape-memory alloy, such as nitinol, for example. Braided catheter 33 may also provide structural support for elongate member 4 and may improve the steering and/or ability to push elongate member 4 through a body cavity.

[0040] Braided catheter 33 may surround and enclose electronic cable 37 to substantially isolate the cabling from the surrounding environment to reduce the coupling effect of EM fields. Thus, braided catheter 33 may completely encircle electronic cable 37 and/or electronic components contained in imaging channel 36 and may extend along a length of elongate member 4. The material, thickness, size, and location of braided catheter 33 may be varied to adjust the amount of noise reduction from airborne coupling.

[0041] Braided catheter 33 may be connected to a low impedance path to ground, as shown in Figure 3. In some embodiments, braided catheter 33 may remain connected to a floating, signal ground or an earth ground.

Grounding braided catheter 33 may increase patient safety by reducing the risk that stray electrical current contacts the patient. Braided catheter 33 may reduce airborne EMI in a cost-effective manner without substantially increasing the number of components or the size requirements of elongate member 4.

[0042] In one embodiment, a non-conductive medium may be used instead of, or in addition to, braided catheter 33 to reduce airborne EMI or conductively coupled noise. As shown in Figure 4, a non-conductive medium 39 may be used to surround, seal, or fill an area surrounding cable 37. For example, imaging lumen 36 may contain non-conductive medium 39 surrounding cable 37 and/or a portion of imaging unit 32 (shown in Figure 2). Non-conductive medium 39 may have a higher density than surrounding fluids, such as saline from one or more irrigation lumens 31 or bodily fluids, like blood or urine. While non-conductive medium 39 may decrease noise coupling, its higher density may reduce the likelihood that conductive fluids will mix with the non-conductive medium. Any suitable liquid or solid non-conductive medium may be used to surround cable 37, for example, oils or other biocompatible mediums. If a fluid non-conductive medium 39 is used, seals and other components may be used to prevent medium 39 from leaking into the patient's body or into other regions of endoscope 3.

[0043] In one embodiment, an additional component, such as an antenna may be used to pick up noise, reducing the likelihood that such noise couples to cable 37. As discussed above, cable 37 connecting the distal and proximal electronics of an endoscope may be particularly susceptible to corruption, because the conductors within the cable may act as long antennae, attracting electrical noise from the EM field. Providing an antenna near cable 37 may redirect the stray current and couple EMI to itself instead of coupling to conductors 38 of cable 37.

[0044] For example, as depicted in Figures 5A and 5B, antenna 40 may be situated near cable 37 and may extend the length of cable 37. One or more antennae 40 may extend near or adjacent to one or more cables 37 and may run parallel to or may wrap around one or more cables 37. Antenna 40 may be situated near any electrical component in endoscope 3 to re-direct conductively coupled noise or airborne EMI from the electrical component to antenna 40, decreasing the likelihood of signal corruption. Antenna 40 may be formed of any suitable conductive, biocompatible material, e.g., metals, alloys, polymers, carbon, or any combination thereof. In the depicted exemplary embodiments, antenna 40 has a circular cross-section, however, antenna 40 may have any suitable cross-sectional shape, for example, rectangular or oval and may take any suitable shape, for example, a conductive wire or a wire wrap.

[0045] Antenna 40 may be grounded to promote patient safety. If used in conjunction with braided catheter 33, described above, antenna 40 may be coupled to the same ground as braided catheter 33. Noise coupled to saline or bodily fluid may couple to the antenna, which

may then provide a low impedance path to ground. Accordingly, noise may couple to antenna 40 instead of cable 37. Antenna 40 may have a reduced diameter so as to reduce manufacturing costs and/or reduce the amount of space required inside endoscope 3. When used alone or when used in conjunction with braided catheter 33, antenna 40 may reduce both airborne EMI and conductively coupled noise, thus reducing imaging signal corruption in potentially noisy environments, such as medical imaging system 10.

[0046] While principles of the present disclosure are described herein with reference to illustrative embodiments for particular applications, it should be understood that the disclosure is not limited thereto. Those having ordinary skill in the art and access to the teachings provided herein will recognize additional modifications, applications, embodiments, and substitution of equivalents all fall within the scope of the embodiments described herein. Accordingly, the claims are not to be considered as limited by the foregoing description.

Claims

1. A medical device, comprising:

an elongate member (4), having a proximal end and a distal end and at least two lumens extending therebetween, wherein at least one of the lumens is an imaging lumen (36);
 an imaging device (32) associated with the imaging lumen (36);
 a signal transmitting device comprising at least one cable (37), the at least one cable (37) having a distal end and a proximal end, the at least one cable extending longitudinally within the imaging lumen (36) and having a distal end operably coupled to the imaging device (32);
 an antenna (40) disposed within the elongate member (4) and extending the length of the signal transmitting device;
 a processor operably coupled to a proximal end of the at least one cable (37) and disposed outside of a proximal end of the imaging lumen (36);
 an electromagnetic interference shielding catheter disposed within and extending the length of the elongate member,
 wherein the antenna (40) is configured to redirect stray current and couple electromagnetic interference to itself instead of to the at least one cable (37) by being disposed within the imaging lumen (36) and located adjacent to the at least one cable (37),
 wherein the antenna (40) is a conductive wire and is electrically grounded, and wherein the antenna (40) is connected to the same ground as the electromagnetic interference shielding catheter, and

wherein the electromagnetic interference shielding catheter completely surrounds the circumference of the imaging lumen (36).

2. The medical device of claim 1, wherein the imaging device is a camera.
3. The medical device of claim 1, further comprising an illumination device associated with an illumination lumen (35), wherein, optionally, the electromagnetic interference shielding catheter completely surrounds the circumferences of both the illumination lumen (35) and the imaging lumen (36).
4. The medical device of claim 1, wherein the electromagnetic interference shielding catheter is formed of a conductive material.
5. The medical device of claim 1, wherein the electromagnetic interference shielding catheter is connected to a floating ground.
6. The medical device of claim 1, further comprising: a non-conductive medium (39) disposed in the imaging lumen (36) and surrounding the cable (37), wherein, optionally, the non-conductive medium (39) is a fluid having a density higher than water, and wherein the fluid is sealed within the imaging lumen (36).
7. The medical device of any of claims 1 to 6, wherein the electromagnetic interference shielding catheter comprises a braided catheter (33) surrounding the circumference of the imaging lumen (36), wherein the braided catheter (33) is electrically grounded.
8. The medical device of claim 7, wherein the electromagnetic interference shielding catheter is disposed between an exterior wall of the elongate member (4) and an exterior wall of the imaging lumen (36).
9. The medical device of claim 8, wherein the electromagnetic interference shielding catheter and the antenna (40) are configured to attract current from an electromagnetic field to provide a low-impedance pathway to the ground.
10. The medical device of any one of the preceding claims, wherein the antenna runs parallel to the at least one cable.
11. The medical device of any one of the preceding claims, wherein the at least one cable is comprised of one or more conductors.
12. The medical device of claim 11, wherein the one or more conductors are contained within an insulation to form the at least one cable.

13. The medical device of claim 12, wherein the insulation completely surrounds each of the one or more conductors.

Patentansprüche

1. Medizinische Vorrichtung, aufweisend:

ein längliches Element (4), das ein proximales Ende und ein distales Ende und mindestens zwei sich dazwischen erstreckende Lumina aufweist, wobei mindestens eines der Lumina ein Bildgebungsolumen (36) ist;
eine Bildgebungsanordnung (32), die mit dem Bildgebungsolumen (36) assoziiert ist;
eine Signalübertragungsvorrichtung, die mindestens ein Kabel (37) aufweist, wobei das mindestens ein Kabel (37) ein distales Ende und ein proximales Ende aufweist und sich das mindestens ein Kabel in Längsrichtung im Bildgebungsolumen (36) erstreckt und ein distales Ende aufweist, das mit der Bildgebungsanordnung (32) wirkverbunden ist;
eine Antenne (40), die in dem länglichen Element (4) angeordnet ist und sich über die Länge der Signalübertragungsvorrichtung erstreckt;
einen Prozessor, der mit einem proximalen Ende des mindestens einen Kabels (37) wirkverbunden und außerhalb des proximalen Endes des Bildgebungsolumens (36) angeordnet ist;
einen gegen elektromagnetische Interferenz abschirmenden Katheter, der in dem länglichen Element angeordnet ist und sich über dessen Länge erstreckt,
wobei die Antenne (40) zum Umleiten von Streuströmen und zum Koppeln von elektromagnetischer Interferenz an sich selbst statt an das mindestens ein Kabel (37) ausgebildet ist, indem sie neben dem mindestens einen Kabel (37) im Bildgebungsolumen (36) angeordnet ist, wobei die Antenne (40) ein leitfähiger Draht und elektrisch geerdet ist und wobei die Antenne (40) mit der gleichen Masse wie der gegen elektromagnetische Interferenz abschirmende Katheter verbunden ist, und
wobei der gegen elektromagnetische Interferenz abschirmende Katheter den Umfang des Bildgebungsolumens (36) vollständig umgibt.

2. Medizinische Vorrichtung nach Anspruch 1, wobei die Bildgebungsanordnung eine Kamera ist.
3. Medizinische Vorrichtung nach Anspruch 1, ferner aufweisend eine Beleuchtungsanordnung, die mit einem Beleuchtungsolumen (35) assoziiert ist, wobei der gegen elektromagnetische Interferenz abschirmende Katheter wahlweise den Umfang sowohl des

Beleuchtungsolumens (35) als auch des Bildgebungsolumens (36) vollständig umgibt.

4. Medizinische Vorrichtung nach Anspruch 1, wobei der gegen elektromagnetische Interferenz abschirmende Katheter aus einem leitfähigen Material gebildet ist.
5. Medizinische Vorrichtung nach Anspruch 1, wobei der gegen elektromagnetische Interferenz abschirmende Katheter mit einem massefreien Referenzpunkt verbunden ist.
6. Medizinische Vorrichtung nach Anspruch 1, ferner aufweisend:
ein nichtleitendes Medium (39), das im Bildgebungsolumen (36) angeordnet ist und das Kabel (37) umgibt, wobei das nichtleitende Medium (39) gegebenenfalls ein Fluid mit einer höheren Dichte als Wasser ist und wobei das Fluid im Bildgebungsolumen (36) dicht eingeschlossen ist.
7. Medizinische Vorrichtung nach einem der Ansprüche 1 bis 6, wobei der gegen elektromagnetische Interferenz abschirmende Katheter einen geflochtenen Katheter (33) aufweist, der den Umfang des Bildgebungsolumens (36) umgibt, wobei der geflochtene Katheter (33) elektrisch geerdet ist.
8. Medizinische Vorrichtung nach Anspruch 7, wobei der gegen elektromagnetische Interferenz abschirmende Katheter zwischen einer Außenwand des länglichen Elements (4) und einer Außenwand des Bildgebungsolumens (36) angeordnet ist.
9. Medizinische Vorrichtung nach Anspruch 8, wobei der gegen elektromagnetische Interferenz abschirmende Katheter und die Antenne (40) zum Anziehen von Strom von einem elektromagnetischen Feld ausgebildet sind, um einen niederohmigen Pfad zur Masse bereitzustellen.
10. Medizinische Vorrichtung nach einem der vorstehenden Ansprüche, wobei die Antenne parallel zu dem mindestens einen Kabel verläuft.
11. Medizinische Vorrichtung nach einem der vorstehenden Ansprüche, wobei das mindestens ein Kabel einen oder mehrere Leiter aufweist.
12. Medizinische Vorrichtung nach Anspruch 11, wobei einer oder mehrere Leiter in einer Isolierung enthalten sind, um das mindestens ein Kabel zu bilden.
13. Medizinische Vorrichtung nach Anspruch 12, wobei die Isolierung den einen oder jeden der mehreren Leiter vollständig umgibt.

Revendications

1. Dispositif médical comprenant :

un membre allongé (4), ayant une extrémité proximale et une extrémité distale et au moins deux lumières s'étendant entre elles, où au moins l'une des lumières est une lumière d'imagerie (36) ;
 un dispositif d'imagerie (32) associé avec la lumière d'imagerie (36) ;
 un dispositif transmettant des signaux comprenant au moins un câble (37), le au moins un câble (37) ayant une extrémité distale et une extrémité proximale, le au moins un câble s'étendant longitudinalement dans la lumière d'imagerie (36) et ayant une extrémité distale couplée de manière fonctionnelle au dispositif d'imagerie (32) ;
 une antenne (40) disposée dans le membre allongé (4) et s'étendant sur la longueur du dispositif transmettant des signaux ;
 un processeur couplé de manière fonctionnelle à une extrémité proximale du au moins un câble (37) et disposé à l'extérieur d'une extrémité proximale de la lumière d'imagerie (36) ;
 un cathéter à blindage contre les interférences électromagnétiques disposé dans et s'étendant sur la longueur du membre allongé, où l'antenne (40) est configurée pour rediriger un courant de fuite et coupler les interférences électromagnétiques avec elle-même plutôt qu'avec le au moins un câble (37) en étant disposée dans la lumière d'imagerie (36) et située en position adjacente au au moins un câble (37), où l'antenne (40) est un fil conducteur et est électriquement reliée à la masse, et où l'antenne (40) est reliée à la même masse que le cathéter à blindage contre les interférences électromagnétiques, et où le cathéter à blindage contre les interférences électromagnétiques entoure complètement la circonférence de la lumière d'imagerie (36).

2. Dispositif médical selon la revendication 1, où le dispositif d'imagerie est une caméra.

3. Dispositif médical selon la revendication 1, comprenant en outre un dispositif d'illumination associé avec une lumière d'illumination (35), où, éventuellement, le cathéter à blindage contre les interférences électromagnétiques entoure complètement les circonférences de la lumière d'illumination (35) et de la lumière d'imagerie (36).

4. Dispositif médical selon la revendication 1, où le cathéter à blindage contre les interférences électromagnétiques est formé d'un matériau conducteur.

5. Dispositif médical selon la revendication 1, où le cathéter à blindage contre les interférences électromagnétiques est relié à une masse flottante.

6. Dispositif médical selon la revendication 1, comprenant en outre :
 un milieu non conducteur (39) disposé dans la lumière d'imagerie (36) et entourant le câble (37), où, éventuellement, le milieu non conducteur (39) est un fluide ayant une densité plus grande que l'eau, et où le fluide est enfermé de manière étanche dans la lumière d'imagerie (36).

7. Dispositif médical selon l'une quelconque des revendications 1 à 6, où le cathéter à blindage contre les interférences électromagnétiques comprend un cathéter tressé (33) entourant la circonférence de la lumière d'imagerie (36), où le cathéter tressé (33) est relié électriquement à la masse.

8. Dispositif médical selon la revendication 7, où le cathéter à blindage contre les interférences électromagnétiques est disposé entre une paroi extérieure du membre allongé (4) et une paroi extérieure de la lumière d'imagerie (36).

9. Dispositif médical selon la revendication 8, où le cathéter à blindage contre les interférences électromagnétiques et l'antenne (40) sont configurés pour attirer le courant d'un champ électromagnétique pour établir un passage à faible impédance jusqu'à la masse.

10. Dispositif médical selon l'une quelconque des revendications précédentes, où l'antenne s'étend parallèlement au au moins un câble.

11. Dispositif médical selon l'une quelconque des revendications précédentes, où le au moins un câble comprend un ou plusieurs conducteurs.

12. Dispositif médical selon la revendication 11, où les un ou plusieurs conducteurs sont contenus dans une isolation pour former le au moins un câble.

13. Dispositif médical selon la revendication 12, où l'isolation entoure complètement chacun des un ou plusieurs conducteurs.

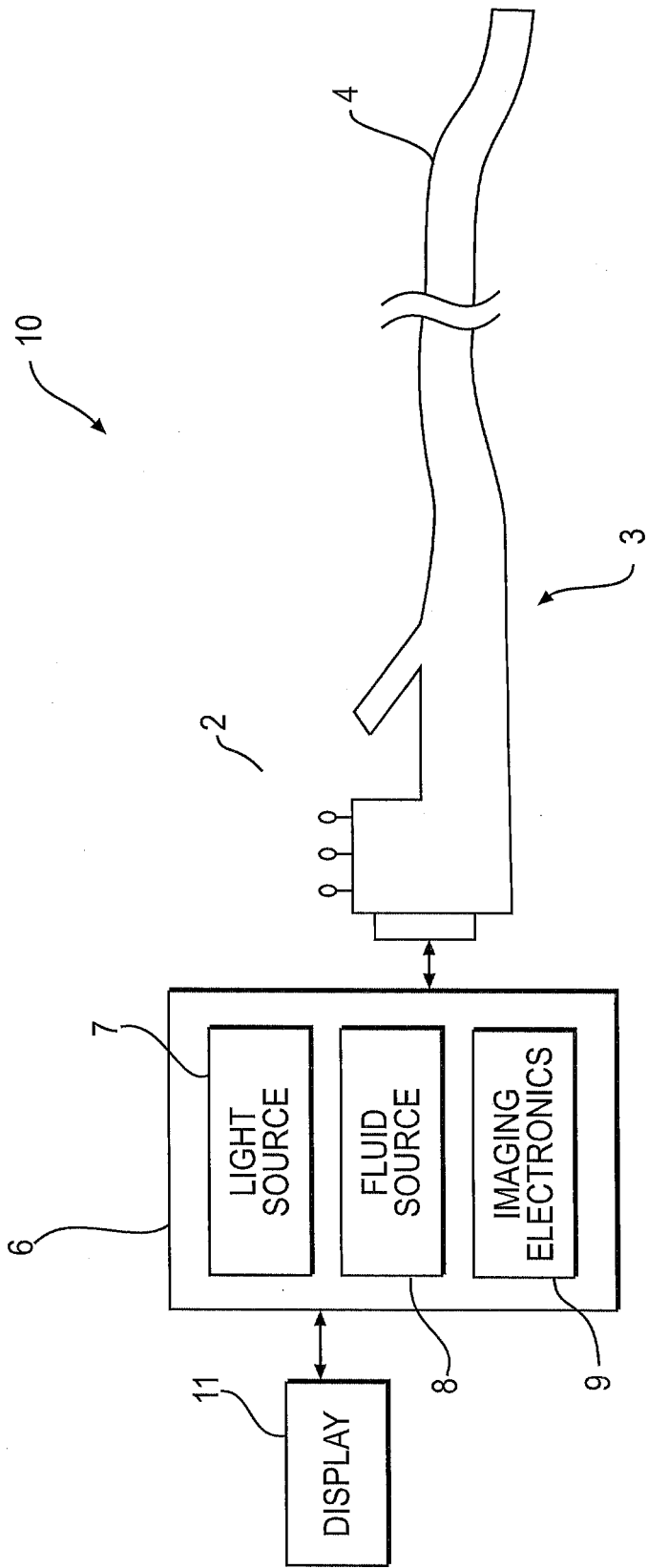


FIG. 1

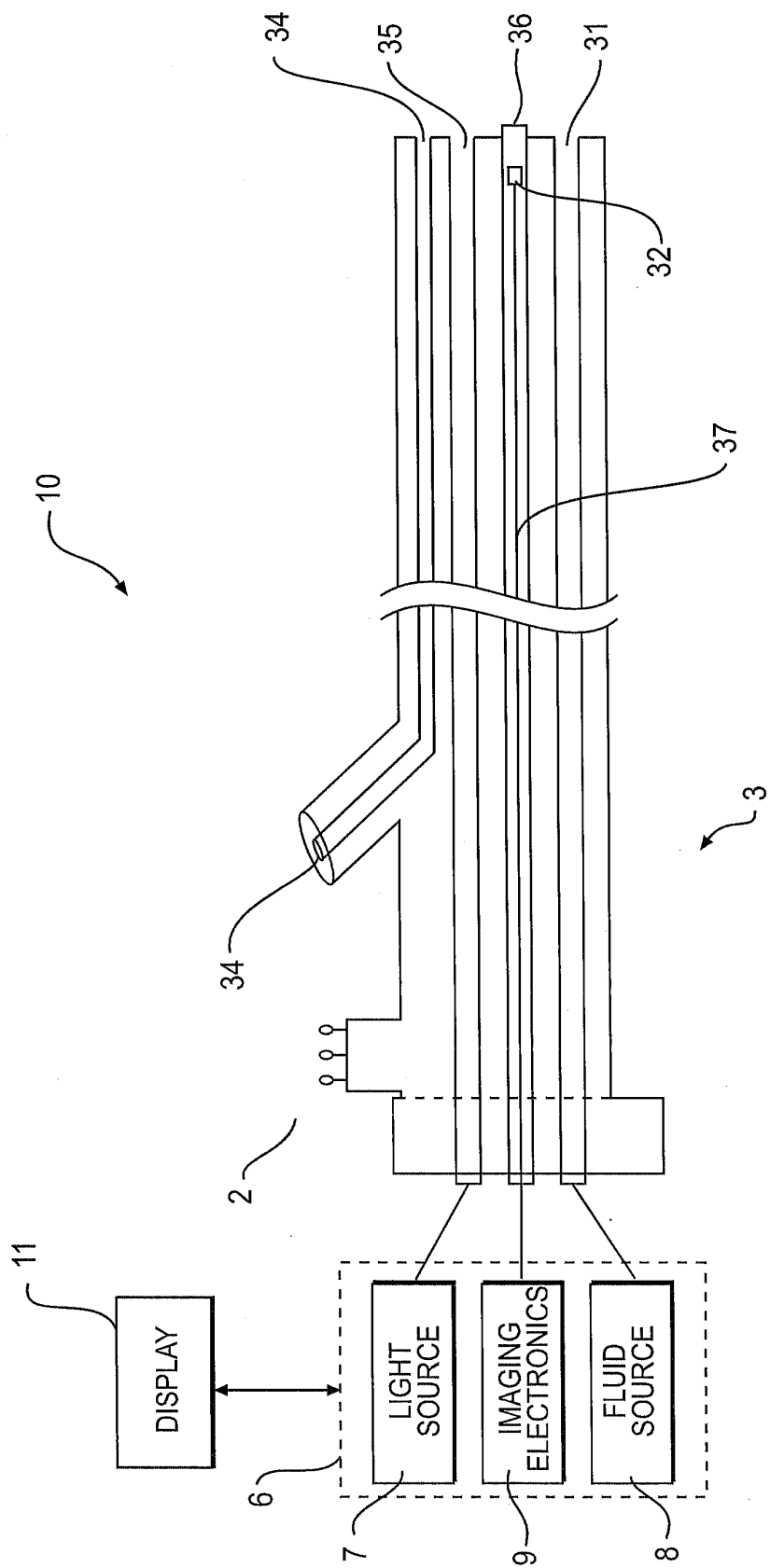


FIG. 2

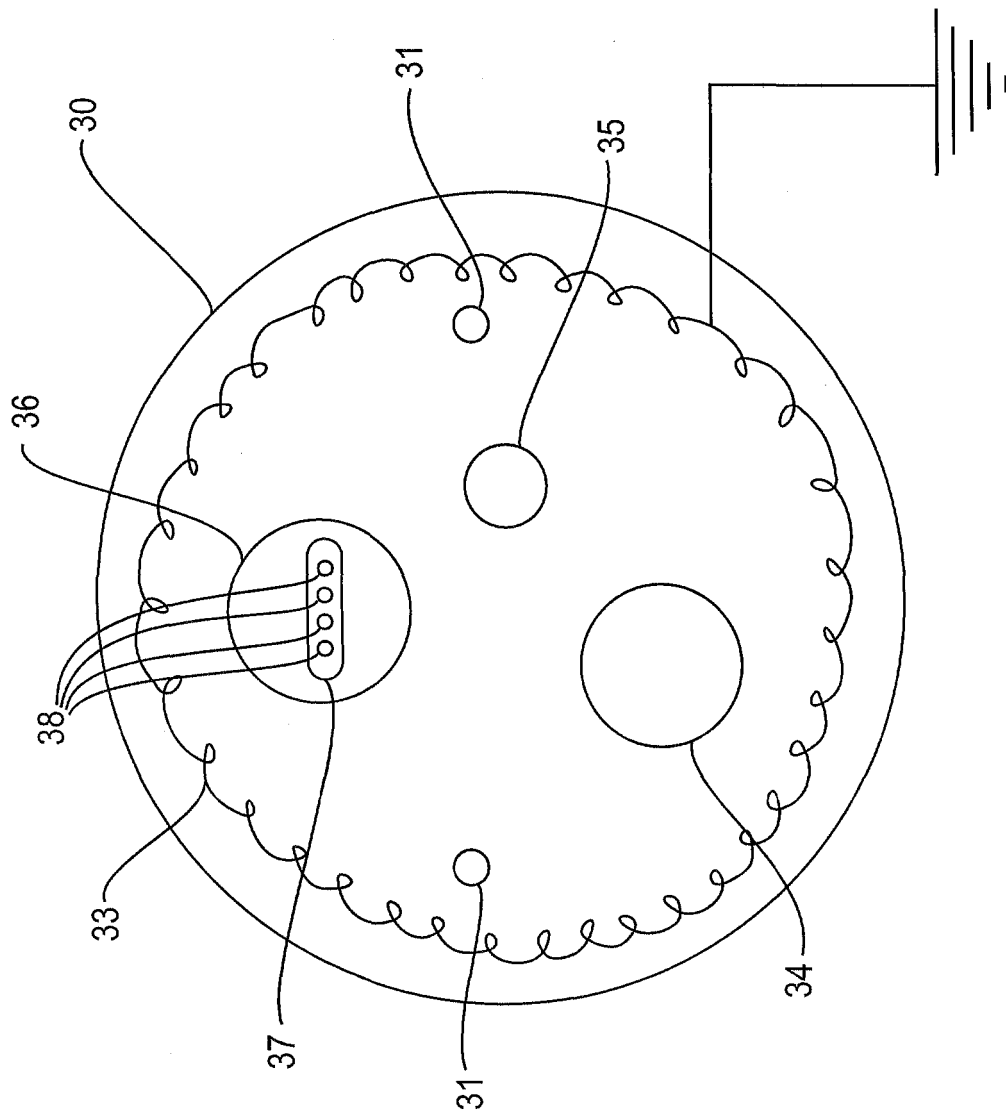


FIG. 3

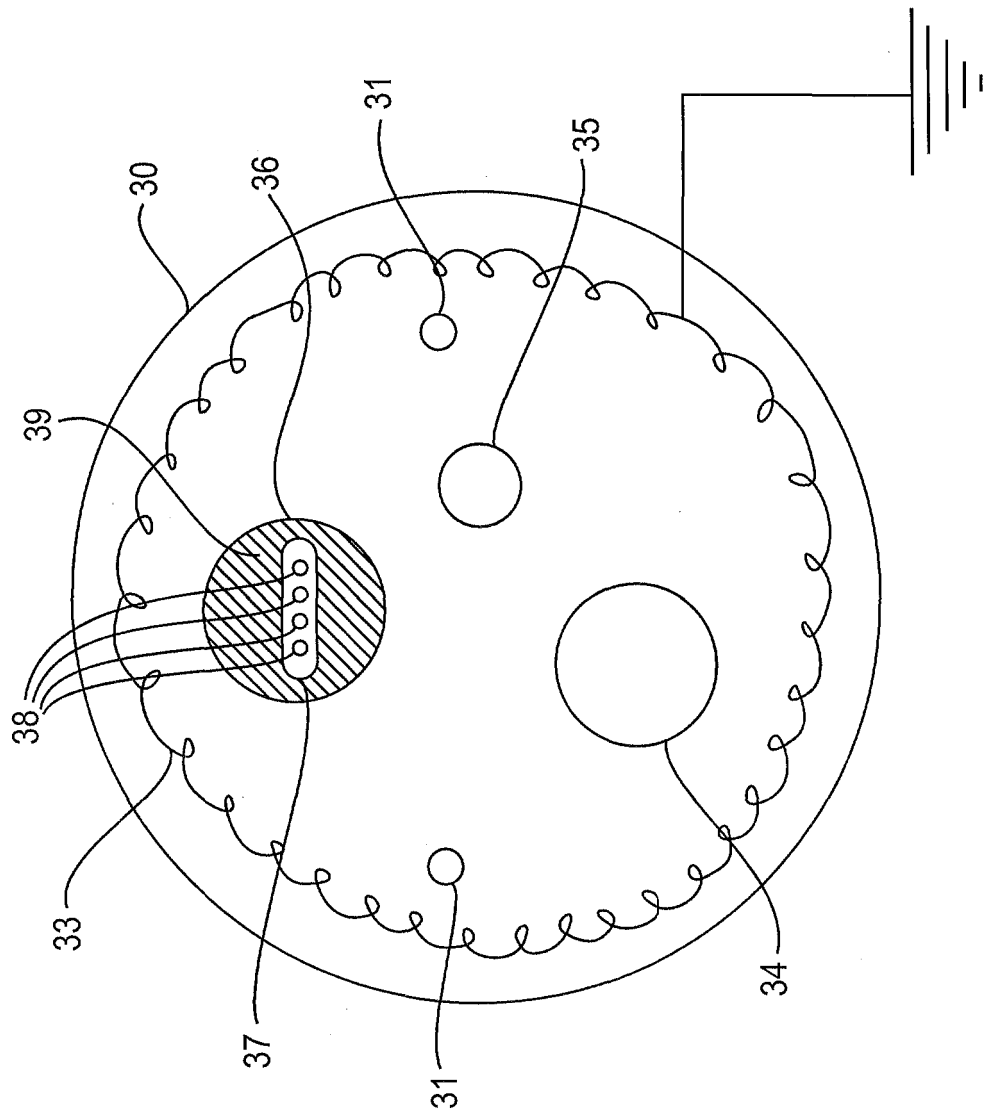


FIG. 4

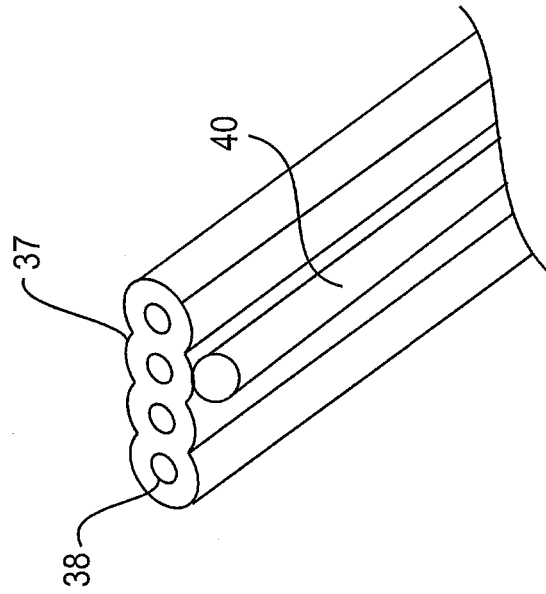


FIG. 5B

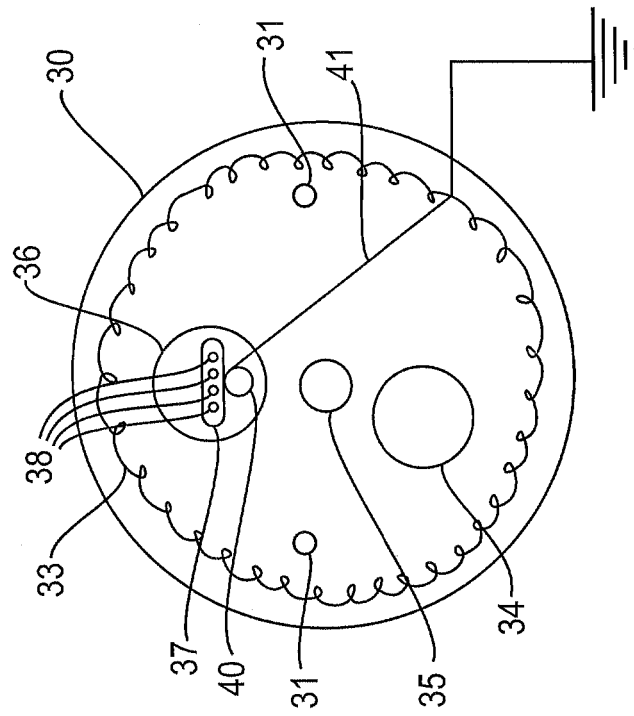


FIG. 5A

REFERENCES CITED IN THE DESCRIPTION

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Patent documents cited in the description

- US 6319197 B1 **[0010]**
- US 5810714 A **[0011]**
- US 5569158 A **[0012]**
- EP 0730844 A1 **[0013]**

专利名称(译)	用于医疗设备的信号传输组件		
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摘要(译)

本公开的实施例涉及一种医疗装置。该医疗装置可以包括细长构件，该细长构件具有近端和远端以及在其之间延伸的至少两个腔。内腔中的至少一个可以是被配置为保持成像装置的成像内腔，并且成像装置可以被布置在成像内腔的内部。信号传输装置可纵向延伸穿过成像管腔。信号传输设备的远端可以可操作地耦合到成像设备，而近端可以可操作地耦合到处理器。处理器可以位于成像管腔的外部。信号发送设备可以在成像设备和处理器之间发送信号。接地的编织导管可被布置在细长构件的内部并在细长构件的长度上延伸，围绕成像管腔。

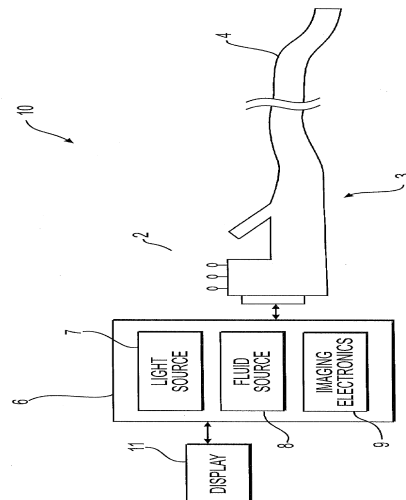


FIG. 1