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Anchoring a medical instrument

Abstract

Some embodiments of a medical anchor device include an elongate body coupled with deployable subcutaneous anchors to secure a catheter instrument (or other medical instrument) in place relative to a skin penetration point. In some circumstances, the elongate body may be in the form of catheter hub body, and the subcutaneous anchors can be deployed from the hub body by adjustment of a movable actuator. A locking member can interact with the actuator so as to retain the actuator in the deployed orientation during the medical procedure.

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Background/Summary

CROSS-REFERENCE TO RELATED APPLICATION(S) (1) This is a continuation of U.S. patent application Ser. No. 17/332,716, filed on May 27, 2021, which is a continuation of U.S. patent application Ser. No. 16/426,037, filed on May 30, 2019 (now U.S. Pat. No. 11,045,630), which is a continuation of U.S. patent application Ser. No. 14/940,800 filed on Nov. 13, 2015 (now U.S. Pat. No. 10,315,009), which is a continuation of U.S. patent application Ser. No. 13/792,673 filed Mar. 11, 2013 (now U.S. Pat. No. 9,205,230), which is a divisional of U.S. patent application Ser. No. 13/410,786 filed on Mar. 2, 2012 and entitled “Anchoring a Medical Instrument” (now U.S. Pat. No. 8,394,066), which is a continuation of U.S. patent application Ser. No. 13/229,394 filed on Sep. 9, 2011 and entitled “Anchoring a Medical Instrument” (now U.S. Pat. No. 8,137,323), which is a continuation of U.S. patent application Ser. No. 12/273,864 filed on Nov. 19, 2008 and entitled “Anchoring a Medical Instrument” (now U.S. Pat. No. 8,029,476), the contents of which are fully incorporated herein by reference.

TECHNICAL FIELD

(1) This document relates to an anchor device, such as a device for use in securing the position of a catheter instrument.

BACKGROUND

(2) Venous, arterial, and body fluid catheters are commonly used by physicians. For example, such catheters may be used to gain access to the vascular system for dialysis, for introducing pharmaceutical agents, for nutrition or fluids, for hemodynamic monitoring, and for blood draws. Alternatively, catheters can be used for drainage of fluid collections and to treat infection. Following introduction into the patient, the catheter is secured to the patient. In some common practices, the catheter is secured to the patient using an adhesive tape on the skin or by suturing a catheter hub to the patient's skin.

SUMMARY

(3) Some embodiments of a medical anchor device include a main body coupled with deployable subcutaneous anchors to secure a catheter instrument, or other medical instrument, in place relative to a skin penetration point. In some circumstances, the main body may be in the form of catheter hub body, and the subcutaneous anchors can be deployed from the hub body by adjustment of a movable actuator. The actuator can be adjusted relative to the hub body so that subcutaneous anchors deploy under the skin in a subcutaneous layer proximate to a skin penetration point, e.g., the entry point of the catheter instrument or another skin opening. A locking member can interact with the actuator so as to retain the actuator in the deployed orientation during the medical procedure. Such a configuration can allow the anchors to remain deployed in the subcutaneous region to secure the position of the catheter instrument while also reducing the likelihood of inadvertent withdrawal of the anchors before completion of the procedure.

(4) In particular embodiments, a system for subcutaneously anchoring a catheter instrument may include a catheter hub body that provides fluid communication from one or more catheter lines to a distal catheter portion that is insertable through a skin penetration point. The system may also include a subcutaneous anchor mechanism movably coupled to the catheter hub body. The

subcutaneous anchor mechanism may have one or more flexible anchors that extend outwardly away from the catheter hub body when in a deployed orientation in a subcutaneous layer proximate to the skin penetration point. The system may further include an actuator that is manually adjustable relative to the catheter hub body so as to shift the flexible anchors from a non-deployed orientation to the deployed orientation. The system may also include a locking device that is movable relative to the actuator so as to shift from an actuator-unlocked position to an actuator-locked position in which the locking device is arranged between the catheter hub body and the actuator when the flexible anchors are in the deployed orientation.

(5) In some embodiments, a medical anchoring system may include an elongate body that provides fluid communication from an internal lumen to a distal catheter portion that is insertable through a skin penetration point. The system may also include a subcutaneous anchor mechanism movably coupled to the elongate body. The subcutaneous anchor mechanism may include flexible anchors that are adjustable between a non-deployed orientation in which the flexible anchors at least partially reside inside the elongate body and a deployed orientation in which the flexible anchors extend outwardly from the elongate body into a subcutaneous layer proximate to the skin penetration point. The system may further include an actuator including an external portion that is movable away from the elongate body so as to shift the flexible anchors from the non-deployed orientation to the deployed orientation. Also, the system may include a locking device that is manually movable to fit in a gap between the elongate body and the external portion of the actuator when the flexible anchors are in the deployed orientation.

(6) Some embodiments can include a method of anchoring a catheter instrument. The method may include inserting at least a portion of a catheter hub body through a skin penetration point so that a distal catheter portion extending from the catheter hub body is advanced into a blood vessel. The method may also include adjusting an actuator to an operative position relative to the catheter hub body so as to deploy a subcutaneous anchor mechanism in a subcutaneous layer proximate to the skin penetration point. The subcutaneous anchor mechanism may comprise one or more flexible anchors that extend outwardly from the catheter hub body to abut an underside of a skin layer when deployed in the subcutaneous layer. The method may further include moving a locking device relative to the actuator and the catheter hub body so that the locking device retains the actuator in the operative position.

(7) These and other embodiments may provide one or more of the following advantages. First, some embodiments of an anchor system can retain a catheter instrument in an operative position relative to a skin penetration point without necessarily requiring sutures or skin adhesives. Second, some embodiments of an anchor system can reduce the likelihood of damage to a skin layer, such as a subcutaneous skin layer, when the anchor system is deployed to retain a catheter instrument in an operative position relative to a skin penetration point. Third, some embodiments of an anchor system include a locking mechanism that minimizes the likelihood of one or more of the anchors shifting to a non-deployed position without user intervention.

(8) The details of one or more embodiments are set forth in the accompanying drawings and the description below. Other features, objects, and advantages will be apparent from the description and drawings, and from the claims.

Description

DESCRIPTION OF DRAWINGS

(1) FIG. 1 is a perspective view of a medical anchor system having a subcutaneous anchor mechanism, in accordance with some embodiments.

(2) FIGS. 2-6 illustrate exemplary operations for deploying and locking the subcutaneous anchor mechanism of the medical anchor system of FIG. 1.

- (3) FIG. 7 is another perspective view of the medical anchor system of FIG. 1.
- (4) FIG. 8A is a side view of the medical anchor system of FIG. 1.
- (5) FIG. 8B is a bottom view of the medical anchor system of FIG. 1.
- (6) FIG. 9 is another perspective view of the medical anchor system of FIG. 1 showing selected internal structures of the system.
- (7) FIG. 10 is a perspective view of a portion of the medical anchor system of FIG. 1.
- (8) FIGS. 11-13 illustrate exemplary operations for deploying and locking the subcutaneous anchor mechanism of the medical anchor system, in accordance with alternative embodiments.
- (9) FIGS. 14-15 are perspective views of a medical anchor system having a subcutaneous anchor mechanism, in accordance with alternative embodiments.
- (10) Like reference symbols in the various drawings indicate like elements.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF ILLUSTRATIVE EMBODIMENTS

- (11) An anchor system can hold one or more lumens in proximity to a skin penetration site. The anchor system can include subcutaneous anchors that can be activated from a non-deployed configuration to a deployed position to engage bodily tissue in a subcutaneous region under the skin and hold the anchor system in place. In some embodiments, the anchor system can include a main body coupled to one or more catheter lumens to thereby cooperatively hold the main body and catheter lumens in place relative to the skin penetration site. The anchors can be retracted from a deployed configuration to a non-deployed configuration so that damage to surrounding subcutaneous tissue is minimized when the anchor system is withdrawn from the patient's skin.
- (12) Referring to FIG. 1, some embodiments of a medical anchor system **10** include an anchor device **100** and one or more catheter lines **50a**, **50b** (collectively referred to as catheter **50**) (or other medical instrument) that extend through one or more working channels of the anchor device **100**. The anchor device **100** may include a hub body, which can be in the form of an elongate body **110**, that receives at least a portion of the catheter **50** and houses one or more subcutaneous anchors **160**. As described below, the anchors **160** may be deployable such that they extend from the elongate body **110**. The anchor device **100** includes a distal tip portion **115** that may penetrate through a skin penetration site **22** and into a subcutaneous layer **24** adjacent to a skin portion **20**. Also, the anchor device **100** includes a proximal portion **116** that can remain external to the skin portion **20**. In this embodiment, portions of the catheter **50** extend from the proximal portion **116** so as to allow other, external lumen-type devices (not shown in FIG. 1) to be attached to the one or more catheter lines **50a**, **50b**. The catheter **50** includes a distal catheter portion **53** extending from the distal tip portion **115** of the elongate body **110**. The distal catheter portion **53** is configured to be advanced into a blood vessel **25** or other bodily lumen of a human or animal patient and toward a targeted body site inside the patient's body. As described in more detail below, the distal catheter portion **53** provides fluid communication from the one or more catheter lines **50a**, **50b** to the blood vessel **25**. For example, the distal catheter portion **53** may include a plurality of internal lumens (e.g., coaxial or adjacent) extending toward the catheter tip **52**. Thus, the catheter line **50a** may be in fluid communication with a first internal lumen of the distal catheter portion **53**, and the second catheter line **50b** may be in fluid communication with a second internal lumen of the distal catheter portion **53**. Alternatively, the first and second catheter lines **50a** and **50b** can be in fluid communication with the same internal lumen of the distal catheter portion **53**. In other embodiments in which the hub body **110** receives a single catheter line (e.g., single lumen PICC device or the like), the hub body **110** can include a lumen that provides fluid communication between the single catheter line and the internal lumen of the distal catheter portion **53**.
- (13) The anchor device **100** can be used to retain the catheter **50** near the skin penetration site **22**. In particular, the elongate body **110** can house the one or more anchors **160**. As described in more detail below, the anchors **160** may comprise one or more flexible tines **160a** that are deployable into the subcutaneous layer **24** under the skin portion **20** so as to retain the position of the anchor device **100** relative to the skin penetration site **22**.

(14) In this embodiment, the anchor device **100** includes an actuator **141** that adjusts the anchors **160** from a non-deployed position (FIG. 2) to the deployed position depicted in FIG. 1. The actuator **141** may operate as a sliding mechanism that reciprocates along a portion of the catheter lines **50a** and **50b** near the elongate body **110**. As discussed in greater detail below, a portion of the actuator **141** includes an actuator rod **164** (FIG. 10) that deploys and retracts the anchors **160** by reciprocating along an interior actuator channel **169** (FIG. 7) of the elongate body **110** between a distal position and a proximal position. A user may insert the elongate body **110** through the skin penetration site **22** so that one or more anchor deployment ports **165** (FIG. 9) are arranged under the skin portion **20** in the subcutaneous layer **24**. For example, the anchor device **100** may penetrate the skin portion **20** through a small incision made by a physician. In some cases a dilation instrument (not shown in FIG. 1) may be used to assist in advancing the anchor device **100** through the incision. During insertion, the anchors **160** are in the non-deployed position, being substantially encased within the anchor device **100**. The anchors can be placed in the non-deployed position by shifting the actuator **141** to a distal position, where the actuator **141** is moved away from the elongate body **110**. After insertion, the distal catheter portion **53** and possibly the distal tip portion **115** of the elongate body **110** can be advanced into a targeted blood vessel **25** or other body lumen. When the anchor device **100** is arranged in the desired position, the user can apply a force to the actuator **141** so as to slide the actuator **141** from the distal position to a proximal position (refer to FIGS. 2-3). As described in more detail below, the adjustment of the actuator **141** causes the flexible tines **160a** to shift from a non-deployed position to the deployed position shown in FIG. 1. Also described in more detail below, the actuator **141** can be secured in the proximal position using a lock **140** that is movably connected to the actuator **141** (e.g., pivots about a pivot member **143** in this embodiment). The lock **140** can minimize the likelihood of the anchors **160** inadvertently retracting to a non-deployed position until the anchor device **100** is ready to be withdrawn from the subcutaneous layer **24**.

(15) Still referring to FIG. 1, in some embodiments, one or more flow restriction devices **52a**, **52b** can control fluid flow through the catheter **50**. In this embodiment, each flow restriction device **52a**, **52b** includes a resiliently flexible member **52f** configured to compress upon an associated catheter line **50a** or **50b**. The flow restriction devices **52a**, **52b** can include one or more ports **52h** through which catheter line **50a** can pass such that the flow restriction device **52a**, **52b** are slidable along a length of the catheter **50** when in an unlocked configuration. In this embodiment, the resiliently flexible member **52f** includes one or more opposing protrusions **52d**, **52e** which exert a squeezing force on the catheter **50** when the resiliently flexible member **52f** is compressed upon the catheter **50**. Fluid flow through the catheter can be adjusted by applying a requisite pressure to the catheter via the opposing protrusions **52d**, **52e**. A locking mechanism **52g** can hold the relative position of the opposing protrusions **52d**, **52e** in a chosen position so that a chosen level of fluid flow can be maintained over a period of time without further user intervention.

(16) In some cases, the proximal ends of catheter lines **50a**, **50b** each terminate into a catheter coupling member **51a**, **51b** (collectively referred to as coupling member **51**) respectively. The catheter coupling member **51** can be used to connect one or more of the catheter lines **50a**, **50b** to another catheter (not shown) or another type of medical device having a lumen, including a pump system. Catheter coupling members **51a**, **51b** can permit a range of fluid delivery and sampling systems to be connected to the medical device anchor system **10** without necessarily requiring a new anchoring system to be inserted into the patient each time. Such a configuration can be useful for patients who receive a PICC line for infusion of various medications or withdrawing bodily fluids (without repeated insertion of syringe needles into the patient).

(17) Still referring to FIG. 1, the anchor device **100** includes the anchors **160** for use in the temporary anchoring of at least a portion of elongate body **110** in the subcutaneous layer **24** under the skin portion **20**. In some embodiments, the anchors **160** may comprise a material that exhibits superelasticity. As such, the anchors **160** can flexibly shift from a non-deployed position (FIG. 2) to

a deployed position (FIG. 1) when in the subcutaneous layer **24** of the skin portion **20**. For example, the anchors **160** may be formed from a length of nitinol wire or from a sheet of nitinol material, which has been processed to exhibit superelasticity below or at about a normal human body temperature, such as below or at about 37 degrees Celsius. The nitinol material may comprise, for example, Nickel Titanium (NiTi), Niobium Titanium (NbTi), or the like. Alternatively, the anchors **160** may comprise a metal material such as stainless steel, spring steel, titanium, MP35N and other cobalt alloys, or the like. In these embodiments, the anchors **160** can be formed from a material or materials that allow them to be adjustable from the non-deployed position to the deployed position as shown in FIG. 1.

(18) In some embodiments, the anchors **160** can be flexed to a stressed condition when in the non-deployed position, e.g., prior to placement of the anchor device **100** in a patient. For example, as described below in connection with FIG. 2, the anchors **160** may be retracted into an internal space of the elongate body **110** when in the non-deployed position. When deployed, as shown in FIG. 1, the anchors **160** can return toward a shape (e.g., by exhibiting superelastic characteristics) that allow the anchors **160** to secure the elongate body **110** relative to the skin penetration site **22** for a period of time until the treatment with the catheters **50** is completed.

(19) The anchors **160** may be designed with a curvature that facilitates the transition from the non-deployed to the deployed position. Furthermore, the curvature of the anchors **160** may be configured to eliminate or reduce the potential damage to the skin during deployment of the anchors **160**. For example, the anchors **160** may include a convex curvature that abuts against the underside of the skin portion **20** in a manner that prevents the flexible tines **160** from piercing through the underside of the skin portion **20**. When the anchors **160** extend from the anchor deployment ports **165** (refer to FIGS. 7-9) positioned in the subcutaneous layer **24**, the curved shape of the anchors **160** can allow them to deploy adjacent to the skin portion **20** while reducing the likelihood of tearing or otherwise damaging the skin portion **20**. When deployed, the anchors **160** can serve to retain the elongate body **110** of the anchor device **100** relative to the skin penetration site **22**. In some embodiments, the anchors **160** may provide a holding force of about 1 lb. or greater, depending upon the medical procedure being performed, the materials comprising the anchors **160**, the geometry of the anchors **160**, and/or other factors. For example, the anchors **160** may provide a holding force of about 0.5 lbs or more, about 1 lb to about 20 lbs, about 1 lb to about 5 lbs, or about 2 lbs to about 3 lbs.

(20) In use, the anchors **160** can be shifted to the non-deployed position (refer, for example, to FIG. 2) prior to insertion so as to minimize resistance and possible damage to the skin portion **20** when a portion of elongate body **110** is inserted through the skin penetration site **22**. In some cases, the medical device anchor system **10** can be shipped to the intended user (e.g., a physician or other healthcare provider), with the anchors **160** in the non-deployed position, so that the anchor device **100** can be readily inserted into the skin portion **20** without necessarily requiring the user to shift the actuator **141**. When the anchor device **100** has been inserted to the intended depth inside the subcutaneous layer **24**, the anchors **160** can be shifted to the deployed position (refer, for example, to FIG. 1) to provide at least temporary anchoring for the anchor device **100**. When removal of the anchor device **100** is desired, the anchors **160** can be shifted back to the non-deployed position (e.g., by adjustment of the actuator **141**) to reduce the likelihood of withdrawal resistance and possible damage to the skin portion **20** during removal.

(21) Referring now to FIGS. 2-6, some embodiments of the medical device anchor system **10** can be configured with the lock **140** movably coupled to the actuator **141** (e.g., rotatably coupled about the pivot member **143** in this embodiment). The lock **140** can be used to secure the actuator **141** in a selected configuration such that the anchors **160** remain in the deployed position. Referring to FIG. 2, the anchor device **100** is in a non-deployed and non-locked configuration. In particular, the anchors **160** are retained inside an internal space of the elongate body **110** in a non-deployed position. The elongate body **110** can include the anchor deployment ports **165** (FIG. 7) through

which the anchors can be extended and retracted in response to movement of the actuator **141**. In this configuration, the actuator **141** is arranged in a distal position (FIG. 2) before it is slidably adjusted in a longitudinal direction **190** to a proximal position (FIG. 3). Also in this configuration, the lock **140** is arranged in a first rotational position in which it is positioned proximal to the actuator **141**.

(22) When the anchor device **100** is in the non-deployed and non-locked configuration (FIG. 2), the distal tip portion **115** of the elongate body **110** can be readily inserted through the skin penetration site **22** (refer to FIG. 1) without interference from the anchors **160**. In a preferred embodiment, the catheter **50** is fixedly coupled to the elongate body **110** as described in greater detail below. As such, the catheters lines **50a**, **50b** can remain affixed to the elongate body **110** during the time that the elongate body **110** remains anchored to the skin portion **20**, and various other fluid supplying or sampling lumens can be connected via the catheter coupling members **51a**, **51b**. In alternative embodiments, the anchor device **100** may act as a sleeve so that the elongate body **110** has a channel to releasably receive a separate catheter or instrument after the sleeve is seated at the skin penetration site **22**.

(23) Referring now to FIG. 3, the anchor device **100** can be adjusted to a deployed and non-locked configuration. In this configuration, the anchors **160** are deployed from their respective anchor deployment ports **165** (FIG. 7) so as to extend outwardly from the elongate body **110** of the anchor device **100**. In particular, the anchors **160** are shifted to the deployed position when the actuator **141** is moved in the longitudinal direction **190** to the proximal position. The actuator **141** can be pulled by a user to slide the actuator **141** toward the proximal position. The movement of the actuator **141** transmits a deployment force to the anchors **160** via the actuator rod **164** (FIG. 10), so that the anchors **160** at least partially extend out of the anchor deployment ports **165**. As previously described, the flexible tines **160a** can include a curved shape that facilitates the transition from the non-deployed to the deployed position and reduces the likelihood of damaging the underside of the skin portion **20** during deployment in the subcutaneous layer **24** (FIG. 1). Anchor tines **160a** may be disposed proximal to the anchor deployment ports **165** such that when the actuator rod **164** is drawn rearward (e.g., opposite the direction of the distal tip **115**), a force is imparted to the anchor **160** which forces them to protrude from the anchor deployment ports **165**.

(24) Referring now to FIGS. 4-6, the anchor device **100** can be adjusted from the deployed and non-locked configuration (FIG. 3) to a deployed and locked configuration (FIG. 6). The anchor device **100** can first be shifted to the deployed and non-locked configuration (as previously described in connection with FIG. 3). Lock **140** may be employed to hinder the actuator **141** from prematurely shifting back toward the distal position (FIG. 2), which might otherwise cause the anchors **160** to prematurely retract. In some embodiments, the lock **140** can provide a mechanical bracing force between the actuator **141** and a proximal surface **131** of the elongate body **110** that reduces the likelihood of the actuator **141** prematurely shifting to the distal position without user intervention. In this embodiment, lock **140** is coupled to a swing arm **142** that allows rotational pivoting of the lock **140** about the pivot member **143**. The pivot member **143** can include an elongate shaft that extends through an aperture of the swing arm **142** to rotatably couple the swing arm **142** and the actuator **141**. The pivot member **143** can include an end cap or retainer head so as to permit the swing arm **142** and the actuator **141** to be rotatably coupled while reducing the likelihood of separation.

(25) In this embodiment, the lock **140** and the swing arm **142** are made of a resiliently flexible material. For example, the lock **140** and the swing arm **142** can be integrally molded from a flexible polymer material. The lock **140** has curved portions **140a**, **140b** that substantially mate with an outer circumference of catheter lines **50a** and **50b**, respectively. The curved portions **140a**, **140b** circumferentially engage catheter lines **50a** and **50b** when in a locked configuration, thus reducing the likelihood of the lock **140** rotationally shifting from the proximal or distal position without user intervention. Because the lock **140** is made from a flexible material, curved portions

140a, 140b can flex outwardly when engaging or disengaging the lock **140** to or from the catheter lines **50a, 50b**. Lock **140** can resiliently return to its original form after being flexed outwardly to either to remove or engage the lock **140** with the catheter lines **50a, 50b**. Swing arm **142** is similarly resiliently flexible to allow the engagement and disengagement of the lock **140** with the catheter lines **50a, 50b**. In this embodiment, swing arm **142** can flex from a substantially planar configuration when the lock **140** is engaged with catheter lines **50a, 50b** (FIG. 1), to a curved configuration when the lock **140** is disengaged from the catheter lines **50a, 50b** (FIG. 11).

(26) As shown in FIG. 4, the anchor device **100** can be adjusted from the deployed and non-locked configuration (FIG. 3) to a deployed and locked configuration (FIG. 6) by first disengaging the lock **140** from catheter lines **50a, 50b** while the lock **140** is in the proximal position. This may be accomplished by, e.g., exerting the requisite force (e.g., an upward force) on the lock **140** so that the curved portions **140a, 140b** shift away from the catheter lines **50a, 50b**. At this point the lock **140** and the swing arm **142** can rotate about the pivot member **143** so that the lock **140** is moved in a rotational direction **191**.

(27) As shown in FIG. 5, the lock **140** can be further moved by angular rotation **192** to place the lock **140** and the swing arm **142** in an intermediate distal position. As the lock **140** is being rotated from a fully proximal position (FIG. 3) to a fully distal position (FIG. 6), the position of the actuator **141** can remain substantially stationary relative to the elongate body **110**, thus maintaining the deployed position of the anchors **160**.

(28) As shown in FIG. 6, when the lock **140** approaches the fully distal position (as denoted by angular rotation **193**), the swing arm **142** and the lock **140** can be lifted slightly, allowing the curved portions **140a, 140b** of the lock **140** to transition over the catheter lines **50a, 50b** until the longitudinal axis of the swing arm **142** is substantially parallel with the longitudinal axis of the elongate body **110**. A force can be applied to the swing arm **142** and the lock **140** so that the lock **140** snaps down and engages the catheter lines **50a, 50b** in a locked configuration (FIG. 6). Once in the distal and locked position (FIG. 6), the lock **140** mates with the proximal surface **131** of the elongate body **110** so as to fit snugly between the elongate body **110** and the actuator **141**. This configuration can reduce the likelihood of the actuator **141** prematurely shifting to a distal position (and premature withdrawal of the anchors **160**).

(29) In this embodiment, when the anchor device **100** is in a deployed and locked configuration (FIG. 6), various fluid delivery and sampling systems can be coupled with the medical device anchor system **10**. For example, blood may be drawn from the catheter lines **50a, 50b**; likewise, medications can be introduced into a patient's blood vessel **25** via the one or more catheter lines **50a, 50b**. The medical device anchor system **10** may remain attached to the skin for an extended period of days, weeks, or months.

(30) To remove the anchor device **100** from the patient, the process described for inserting the anchor device **100** (refer to FIGS. 2-6) described above can generally be reversed. For example, in this embodiment, to remove the anchor device **100** from the skin portion **20**, the lock **140** can be lifted so as to disengage the catheter lines **50a, 50b**. The lock **140** and swing arm **142** thus become free to rotate about the pivot member **143** as previously described. The lock **140** can be rotated from a distal position (FIG. 6) to a proximal position (FIG. 3). The user may choose to re-engage the lock **140** in the proximal position with the catheter lines **50a, 50b**, however this step may be unnecessary if the user simply wishes to withdraw the anchor device **100** from the skin portion **20**. With the lock **140** in a proximal position, the actuator **141** is free to shift from the proximal position to a distal position (FIG. 2), which has the effect of applying a translational force to the actuator rod **164** (FIG. 10).

(31) Referring to FIG. 7, as the actuator rod **164** slides forward inside of an actuator channel **169**, the anchors **160** are retracted through the anchor deployment ports **165** and into the anchor device **100**. In this embodiment, when an anchor tip portion **162** (FIG. 10) abuts a distal end **166** of the actuator channel **169**, the anchors **160** become substantially encased within the anchor device **100**.

With the anchors **160** in the non-deployed configuration, the anchor device **100** may be withdrawn from the skin portion **20** by grasping a gripping portion **130** of the elongate body **110** and providing a withdrawing force. The likelihood of damaging the skin portion **20** can be reduced when the anchor device **100** is removed because the anchors **160** are arranged in the non-deployed configuration.

(32) Referring now to FIGS. 7-10, the adjustment of the actuator **141** can cause one or more internal structures to move within the anchor device **100**. For example, in this embodiment, the actuator **141** can be adjusted to cause the actuator rod **164** (FIG. 10) to move within the actuator channel **169**. As shown in FIG. 7, the anchor device **100** can be arranged in the deployed and locked configuration so that the anchors **160** extend from an internal space within the elongate body **110** (as previously described in connection with FIG. 1). The elongate body **110** of the anchor device **100** can be made of a biocompatible material, such as PEEK (polyetheretherketone), polyethylene, polyimide, or the like. The elongate body **110** may include a tapered portion **134** along the distal tip portion **115** that facilitates insertion of the anchor device **100** through the skin penetration site **22**. In this embodiment, the gripping portion **130** of the anchor device **100** includes a mesa **170** that forms an insertion stop, which may be used to inhibit insertion of the elongate body **110** into the skin portion **20** beyond a particular depth (so that the anchor ports **165** reside in the subcutaneous layer **24**). In practice, as the elongate body **110** is advanced into the skin portion **20**, a mesa wall **171** can abut a skin portion **20** surface when the elongate body **110** has been inserted substantially the appropriate distance to allow the anchors **160** to be deployed in the subcutaneous layer **24**. In some embodiments, the mesa **170** can provide a surface onto which information about the medical device anchor system **10** can be indicated.

(33) Referring now to FIGS. 8A, 8B, and 9, in some embodiments, the elongate body **110** can include one or more internal lumens **132a**, **132b**. The lumens **132a**, **132b** can be configured for fluid communication with catheter lines **50a**, **50b** or other medical instruments to allow transport of fluids from the catheter coupling members **51a**, **51b** to the distal catheter portion **53** (FIG. 1). In some implementations, internal lumens **132a**, **132b** are integral portions of catheter lines **50a**, **50b** that extend into the elongate body **110**. In other implementations, the internal lumens **132a**, **132b** can be separate lumens, and a connection interface joins the internal lumens **132a**, **132b** with catheter lines **50a**, **50b**. In this embodiment, internal lumens **132a**, **132b** extend through the elongate body **110** and transition to a side-by-side position in the distal tip portion **115**. After insertion of at least a portion of the elongate body **110** into the subcutaneous region **24** (FIG. 1), the internal lumens **132a**, **132b** can be used to introduce or sample fluids into or from a patient in cooperation with the distal catheter portion **53**. In this embodiment, the distal catheter portion **53** includes two channels **137a**, **137b** (FIG. 9), each of which is coupled to a distal end of an internal lumen **132a**, **132b** respectively, thereby allowing fluid communication between the blood vessel **25** (FIG. 1), the distal catheter portion **53**, the internal lumens **132a**, **132b**, and catheter lines **50a**, **50b**.

(34) In some embodiments, the internal lumens **132a**, **132b** can have a diameter of about 3 French to about 30 French, and about 5 French to about 20 French, including particular ranges from about 3 French to about 7 French and about 12 French to about 17 French. In alternative embodiments of the anchor device **100**, each internal lumen **132a**, **132b** can have a different shape or size.

Furthermore, the multiple internal lumens **132a**, **132b** may be selectively sealable so that one internal lumen could be accessed while another is sealed. In some embodiments, this functionality can be achieved using the flow restriction devices **52a**, **52b** as described in relation to FIG. 1.

(35) Referring to FIGS. 7-9, the anchor device **100** includes the actuator channel **169** and the ports **165** to facilitate the actuation of the anchors **160**. The actuator channel **169** can be formed in the elongate body and is capable of receiving the actuator rod **164**. The actuator channel **169** may be defined at least partially by one or more surfaces that can slidably engage the actuator rod **164** and anchors **160**. Movement of the actuator rod **164** within the actuator channel **169** can urge the anchors **160** to extend from, or retract into, the anchor deployment ports **165**. In this embodiment

the actuator channel **169** may have a polygonal cross-sectional shape (e.g., quadrilateral or the like) that permits longitudinal movement of the actuator rod **164** while hindering possible rotational movement of the actuator rod **164** about its longitudinal axis.

(36) The actuator channel **169** in this embodiment includes a distal portion near the distal tip portion **115** within the elongate body **110** that accepts a tip portion **162** of the actuator rod and at least a portion of the anchors **160** when the anchor device **100** is arranged in the non-deployed configuration. In this embodiment, when the tip portion **162** approaches the distal portion of the actuator channel **169**, the anchors **160** approach the fully retracted (non-deployed) configuration and do not substantially extend from the anchor deployment ports **165**. The actuator channel **169** and the internal lumens **132a**, **132b** may extend longitudinally along the elongate body **110** in a side-by-side configuration.

(37) Referring now to FIG. **10**, the actuator rod **164** may include an actuator shaft **164a** that can be advanced and retracted within the actuator channel **169** in response to the movement of the actuator **141**. In this embodiment, the anchors **160** are coupled to the actuator shaft **164a** through a reduced portion **164b** that is sized to fit adjacently between the anchors **160** in the distal portion of the actuator channel **169**. Movement of the actuator **141** (and the corresponding translation of the actuator rod **164** within the actuator channel **169**) causes the anchors **160** to shift between the non-deployed position (FIG. **2**) and the deployed position (FIG. **3**).

(38) Referring back to FIGS. **7-9**, in some cases, the actuator channel **169** may not fully extend through the elongate body **110** of the anchor device **100**. For example, the actuator channel **169** may extend distally to a depth that extends to a terminal end (e.g., distal end **166**) (FIG. **8A**). In some embodiments, when the actuator **141** is shifted to the distal position (FIG. **2**), the actuator rod **164** is caused to distally advance within the actuator channel **169** such that the tip portion **162** of the actuator rod **164** approaches the distal end **166** of the actuator channel **169**, but may not abut the distal end **166**. In this embodiment, the anchors **160** are coupled to the actuator rod **164** near the tip portion **162** so that the anchors **160** retract into the elongate body **110** as the anchor tip portion **162** of the actuator rod **164** approaches the distal end **166** of the actuator channel **169**. In such circumstances, the anchors **160** may be flexed to a stressed condition while being retained within the actuator channel **169** or other internal space of the elongate body **110**.

(39) The actuator **141** can be adjusted to generate a longitudinal movement (e.g., longitudinal movement **190** (FIG. **3**)), which is translated to the actuator rod **164** via a connector portion **167** (FIG. **10**). In such circumstances, the actuator rod **164** may slide within the actuator channel **169** so that the tip portion **162** of the actuator rod **164** shifts away from the distal end **166** of the actuator channel **169**. This motion of the actuator rod **164** causes the tips of the anchors **160** to pass through the anchor deployment ports **165** and to extend outwardly from the elongate body **110**.

(40) Referring again to FIG. **10**, in some cases the actuator rod **164** can be coupled to the actuator **141** via a support shaft **197**. For example, the support shaft **197** can be coupled to actuator rod **164** using an overmolding process. In this embodiment, the actuator **141** provides support for a support shaft **197** as well as the swing arm **142** as described below. The actuator **141** in this embodiment includes catheter line supports **168a** and **168b** to support portions of the catheter lines **50a** and **50b**.

(41) Accordingly, in this embodiment, the actuator rod **164** and the actuator **141** can be coupled so that the movement **135** of the actuator **141** results in a corresponding movement of the actuator rod **164**. The connection can be configured to transmit longitudinal forces from the actuator **141** to the actuator rod **164**, thereby directing the anchors **160** to extend from or retract into the elongate body **110** as previously described. The anchors **160** can be integrally formed with the actuator rod **164** (e.g., formed from a nitinol material or the like). It should be understood from the description herein that, in some embodiments, the anchors **160** can be joined with the actuator rod **164** at a location other than at the tip portion **162**. For example, in other embodiments, the anchors **160** may be connected to the actuator rod **164** along a middle region of the actuator rod **164**. Also, in alternative embodiments, the anchors **160** may be non-integral with the actuator rod **164**. For

example, the anchors **160** may be formed separately from the actuator rod **164** and then mounted to the actuator rod **164** using adhesives, welds, connectors, or the like.

(42) Referring now to FIGS. **11-13**, in an alternative embodiment, the anchor device **100** can be adjusted from a non-deployed and non-locked configuration (FIG. **11**) to a deployed and locked configuration (FIG. **13**) without necessarily rotating the lock **140**. In this embodiment, the actuator **141** slidably engages the catheter lines **50a**, **50b** and is coupled to the actuator rod **164** (FIG. **10**), similar to previously-described embodiments. Deployable anchors **160** extend outwardly from the elongate body **110** when the actuator **141** is moved by linear translation **194** from a distal position (FIG. **11**) to a proximal position (FIGS. **12** and **13**). In this embodiment, when the actuator **141** is shifted from the distal position (FIG. **11**) to the proximal position (FIG. **13**), the anchors **160** deploy outwardly from ports **165**. Similar to previously-described embodiments, the lock **140** provides a mechanism to prevent the actuator **141** from prematurely shifting from the proximal position to the distal position, which may then retract the anchors **160**.

(43) In this embodiment, the arm **142** is made from a resiliently flexible material that allows it to bend between a generally planar configuration (FIGS. **11** and **13**) and a curved configuration (FIG. **12**). When the actuator **141** is in the distal position (FIG. **11**) the arm **142** becomes flexed such that the lock **140** correspondingly shifts to a position adjacent to an outer surface of the elongate body **110**. When the actuator **141** is shifted to the proximal position (FIG. **13**) the lock **140** can correspondingly shift to a proximal position that allows the lock **140** to engage with the catheter lines **50a**, **50b** as previously described and shown in FIG. **13**. As such, the lock **140** can fit snugly between the actuator **140** and the elongate body **110** to retain the actuator **141** in the active position. When the actuator **141** is shifted to the proximal position (FIG. **13**), the anchors **160** are deployed as previously described. In this embodiment, the arm **142** may not necessarily rotate about a pivot pin, and instead may be fastened to the actuator **141** to allow it to be shifted between a generally planar and a curved or non-planar configuration. In some cases, the arm **142** can be riveted in place to reduce the likelihood inadvertent rotation.

(44) Accordingly, the user can readily deploy the anchors **160** into the subcutaneous layer **24** of the skin portion **20** by adjusting the actuator **141** and snapping the lock **140** into position. For example, a physician may advance the anchor device **100** into the skin portion **20** and deliver the distal catheter portion **53** in a targeted blood vessel **25**. Then the physician can, for example, grasp the gripping portion **130** of the elongate body **110** while sliding the actuator **141** from the distal (FIG. **11**) to the proximal (FIG. **13**) position, thereby deploying the anchors **160** into the subcutaneous layer **24**. The physician may contemporaneously exert a pressing force on the arm **142** (and the lock **140**) so as to snap the lock **140** down upon the catheter lines **50a**, **50b** to reduce the likelihood of prematurely moving the actuator **141** and retracting the anchors **160**.

(45) Referring now to FIGS. **14-15**, some alternative embodiments of an anchor device **200** can include a lock **240** that is movably attached to a catheter hub body (e.g., the elongate body **110** in the depicted embodiment). As such, the lock **240** can be readily adjusted relative to the actuator **241** so as to retain the actuator **241** in a deployed and locked configuration (FIG. **15**). For example, the user may grasp the actuator **241** with his or her fingers to pull in a longitudinal path **294** while readily pushing the lock **240** with his or her thumb in a downward motion **295**. Accordingly, the lock **240** can be arranged between the catheter hub body (e.g., elongate body **110** in this embodiment) and the actuator **241** when the flexible anchors **160** are deployed in the subcutaneous layer **24**. In such circumstances, the lock **240** can reduce the likelihood of the actuator **241** prematurely shifting from the proximal position to the distal position to thereby inadvertently retract the anchors **160**.

(46) Similar to previously described embodiments, the anchor device **200** may include a number of catheter lines **50a**, **50b** that extend from catheter coupling members **51a**, **51b** toward the elongate body **110**. The elongate body **110** can provide fluid communication between the catheter lines **50a**, **50b** and the distal catheter portion **53** that is delivered into a targeted body vessel **25**. Also similar

to previously described embodiments, the actuator **241** of the anchor device **200** can be coupled to the actuator rod **164** (FIG. **10**) so as to deploy anchors **160** in the subcutaneous layer **24** when the elongate body **110** is passed into the skin penetration point **22**. As previously described, the anchors **160** extend outwardly from the elongate body **110** when deployed from the ports **165** into the subcutaneous layer **24**.

(47) Still referring to FIGS. **14-15**, the anchor device **200** can be adjusted from the deployed and non-locked configuration (FIG. **14**) to a deployed and locked configuration (FIG. **15**). In some embodiments, the lock **240** can provide a mechanical bracing force between the actuator **241** and a proximal surface of the elongate body **110** to thereby retain the actuator **241** in the active or deployed position (FIG. **15**) throughout the medical procedure. In this embodiment, lock **240** is coupled to an arm **242** that is attached to the elongate body **110** at a connection point **243**. The arm **242** can comprise a resiliently flexible material that allows it to bend to and from a generally planar configuration (FIG. **14**). For example, the lock **240** and the swing arm **242** can be integrally molded from a flexible polymer material. The lock **240** may include curved portions that substantially mate with an outer circumference of catheter lines **50a-b**, thus reducing the likelihood of the lock **240** rotationally shifting from the locked position without user intervention. When the actuator **241** is in the distal position (FIG. **14**), the arm **242** can be flexed or otherwise manipulated such that the lock **240** correspondingly shifts to a position adjacent to an outer surface of the actuator **241**. When the actuator **241** is shifted to the proximal position (FIG. **15**), the lock **240** can correspondingly shift to an intermediate position between the elongate body **110** and the actuator **241**. As such, the lock **240** can fit snugly between the actuator **241** and the elongate body **110** to retain the actuator **241** in the active position, which causes the anchors **160** to remain deployed as previously described. The arm **243** may pivot relative to the elongate body **110** about the connection point **243**. Alternatively, the arm **242** may instead be fixed to the elongate body so that it can flexibly adjust between a generally planar and a non-planar configuration.

(48) The anchor device **200** can be adjusted from the non-deployed and non-locked configuration (FIG. **14**) to a deployed and locked configuration (FIG. **15**) by first disengaging the lock **140** from catheter lines **50a**, **50b** while the lock **140** is in the proximal position. This may be accomplished, for example, by moving the actuator **241** in a longitudinal path **294** away from the elongate body **110** so that the anchors **160** are deployed into the subcutaneous layer **24**. When the actuator **241** is moved in the longitudinal path **294** away from the elongate body, a gap is created therebetween. As such, the lock **240** can be pressed in a downward path **295** (or a pivoting path) into the space between the actuator **241** and the elongate body **110** so as to fit snugly between the elongate body **110** and the actuator **241**. As such, the lock **240** retains the actuator **241** in a substantially stationary position relative to the elongate body **110**, thereby maintaining the deployed position of the anchors **160**. This configuration can reduce the likelihood of the actuator **241** prematurely shifting to a distal position (and premature withdrawal of the anchors **160**).

(49) In this embodiment, when the anchor device **200** is in a deployed and locked configuration (FIG. **15**), various fluid delivery and sampling systems can be coupled with the anchor device **200**. For example, blood may be drawn from the catheter lines **50a**, **50b**; likewise, medications can be introduced into a patient's blood vessel **25** via the one or more catheter lines **50a**, **50b** and the distal catheter portion **53**. The anchor device **200** may remain attached to the patient for an extended period of days, weeks, or months.

(50) To remove the anchor device **200** from the skin, the process described for inserting the anchor device **200** (refer to FIGS. **14-15**) can generally be reversed. For example, in this embodiment, to remove the anchor device **200** from the skin, the lock **240** can be lifted so as to disengage the actuator **241**. With the lock **140** in a disengaged position, the actuator **241** is free to shift from the proximal position to the distal position (FIG. **14**), which has the effect of applying a translational force to the internal actuator rod **164** (FIG. **10**) and retracting the anchors **160** into the ports **165**. thereafter, the anchor device **200** can be safely withdrawn from the skin in a manner that reduces

the likelihood of trauma to the surrounding tissue.

(51) A number of embodiments have been described. Nevertheless, it will be understood that various modifications may be made without departing from the spirit and scope of the disclosed embodiments. Accordingly, other embodiments are within the scope of the following claims.

Claims

1. A medical anchoring system, comprising: a catheter hub body that provides fluid communication from an internal lumen to a distal catheter portion that is insertable through a skin penetration point, the internal lumen extending longitudinally from a proximal end of the catheter hub body toward a distal end of the catheter hub body; a subcutaneous anchor mechanism movably coupled to the catheter hub body, the subcutaneous anchor mechanism including flexible anchors that are adjustable between a non-deployed orientation and a deployed orientation in which the flexible anchors extend outwardly from the catheter hub body into a subcutaneous layer proximate to the skin penetration point; actuating means for shifting the flexible anchors from the non-deployed orientation to the deployed orientation; and a lock device movably coupled to the actuating means and configured to lock the flexible anchors in the deployed orientation, the lock device configured to be moved to abut an end face of the actuating means to prevent shifting of the flexible anchors from the deployed orientation.
2. The medical anchoring system of claim 1, wherein the subcutaneous anchor mechanism further comprising a first flexible anchor and a second flexible anchor, each of the first and second flexible anchors comprising a flexible tine.
3. The medical anchoring system of claim 2, wherein the first flexible anchor and second flexible anchor are positioned along a longitudinal axis of the catheter hub body in the non-deployed orientation, and the flexible tines of the first flexible anchor and the second flexible anchor extend outwardly from the longitudinal axis in opposite directions in the deployed orientation.
4. The medical anchoring system of claim 1, wherein the catheter hub body is connected to first and second proximal external lines at the proximal end of the catheter hub body, the first and second proximal external lines being positioned in a generally side-by-side position at the proximal end of the catheter hub body.
5. The medical anchoring system of claim 4, wherein the catheter hub body provides fluid communication between the first proximal external line and a first lumen of the distal catheter portion and provides fluid communication between the second proximal external line and a second lumen of the distal catheter portion.
6. The medical anchoring system of claim 4, wherein the first and second proximal external lines and at least a proximal portion of the catheter hub body are configured to remain external to the skin penetration point when the distal catheter portion and the flexible anchors are inserted through the skin penetration point.
7. The medical anchoring system of claim 1, wherein the catheter hub body has a greater lateral width at the proximal end than at the distal end.
8. The medical anchoring system of claim 1, wherein the flexible anchors are positioned between the proximal end and the distal end of the catheter hub body.
9. The medical anchoring system of claim 1, wherein the flexible anchors comprise a metallic material that exhibits superelasticity when the flexible anchors shifted from the non-deployed orientation to the deployed orientation.
10. The medical anchoring system of claim 9, wherein the flexible anchors each have a curved shape when adjusted to the deployed orientation, the curved shape including a convexly curved portion facing toward the proximal end of the catheter hub body.
11. The medical anchoring system of claim 1, wherein the lock device is movable from a first position to a second position, and the lock device abuts an external proximal end of the actuating

means in the first position and abuts an external distal end of the actuating means in the second position.

12. A medical anchoring system, comprising: a catheter hub body that provides fluid communication from an internal lumen to a distal catheter portion that is insertable through a skin penetration point, the internal lumen extending longitudinally from a proximal end of the catheter hub body toward a distal end of the catheter hub body; first and second flexible anchors movably coupled to the catheter hub body, the first and second flexible anchors adjustable between a non-deployed orientation and a deployed orientation in which the first and second flexible anchors are configured to engage a subcutaneous region proximate the skin penetration point in the deployed orientation; actuating means for shifting the first and second flexible anchors from the non-deployed orientation to the deployed orientation; and a lock device movably coupled to the actuating means and configured to lock the first and second flexible anchors in the deployed orientation, the lock device configured to be moved to abut an end face of the actuating means to prevent shifting of the first and second flexible anchors from the deployed orientation.

13. The medical anchoring system of claim 12, wherein at least a portion of each of the first and second anchors is aligned along a longitudinal axis of the catheter hub body in the non-deployed orientation.

14. The medical anchoring system of claim 13, wherein the first and second flexible anchors extend outwardly from the catheter hub body in opposite directions in the deployed orientation.

15. The medical anchoring system of claim 14, wherein the first and second flexible anchors each have a curved shape when adjusted to the deployed orientation, the curved shape including a convexly curved portion facing toward the proximal end of the catheter hub body.

16. The medical anchoring system of claim 15, wherein the convexly curved portion is configured to abut an underside of a skin portion of the subcutaneous region in the deployed orientation.

17. The medical anchoring system of claim 12, wherein the first and second flexible anchors are positioned between the proximal end and the distal end of the catheter hub body.

18. The medical anchoring system of claim 12, wherein the first and second flexible anchors comprise a metallic material that exhibits superelasticity when the first and second flexible anchors shift from the non-deployed orientation to the deployed orientation.

19. The medical anchoring system of claim 18, wherein the first and second flexible anchors each have a curved shape when adjusted to the deployed orientation, the curved shape including a convexly curved portion facing toward the proximal end of the catheter hub body.

20. The medical anchoring system of claim 12, wherein the lock device is movable from a first position to a second position, and the lock device abuts an external proximal end of the actuating means in the first position and abuts an external distal end of the actuating means in the second position.
