



US 20250261951A1

(19) **United States**

(12) **Patent Application Publication**
Amiot et al.

(10) **Pub. No.: US 2025/0261951 A1**

(43) **Pub. Date: Aug. 21, 2025**

(54) **METHOD, SURGICAL APPARATUS, AND
SURGICAL IMPLANT FOR MINIMALLY
INVASIVE SURGICAL PROCEDURES**

A61B 17/17 (2006.01)

A61B 17/56 (2006.01)

A61B 17/86 (2006.01)

A61B 17/88 (2006.01)

(71) Applicant: **RELJA Innovations, Inc.**, Wauwatosa,
WI (US)

(52) **U.S. Cl.**

CPC *A61B 17/151* (2013.01); *A61B 17/1615*

(2013.01); *A61B 17/1775* (2016.11); *A61B*

17/863 (2013.01); *A61B 17/8897* (2013.01);

A61B 17/152 (2013.01); *A61B 17/1725*

(2013.01); *A61B 17/1728* (2013.01); *A61B*

17/1739 (2013.01); *A61B 2017/565* (2013.01)

(21) Appl. No.: **19/201,056**

(22) Filed: **May 7, 2025**

Related U.S. Application Data

(63) Continuation of application No. 17/637,292, filed on
Feb. 22, 2022, filed as application No. PCT/US2020/
064002 on Dec. 9, 2020, now Pat. No. 12,295,589.

(60) Provisional application No. 62/947,376, filed on Dec.
12, 2019.

Publication Classification

(51) **Int. Cl.**

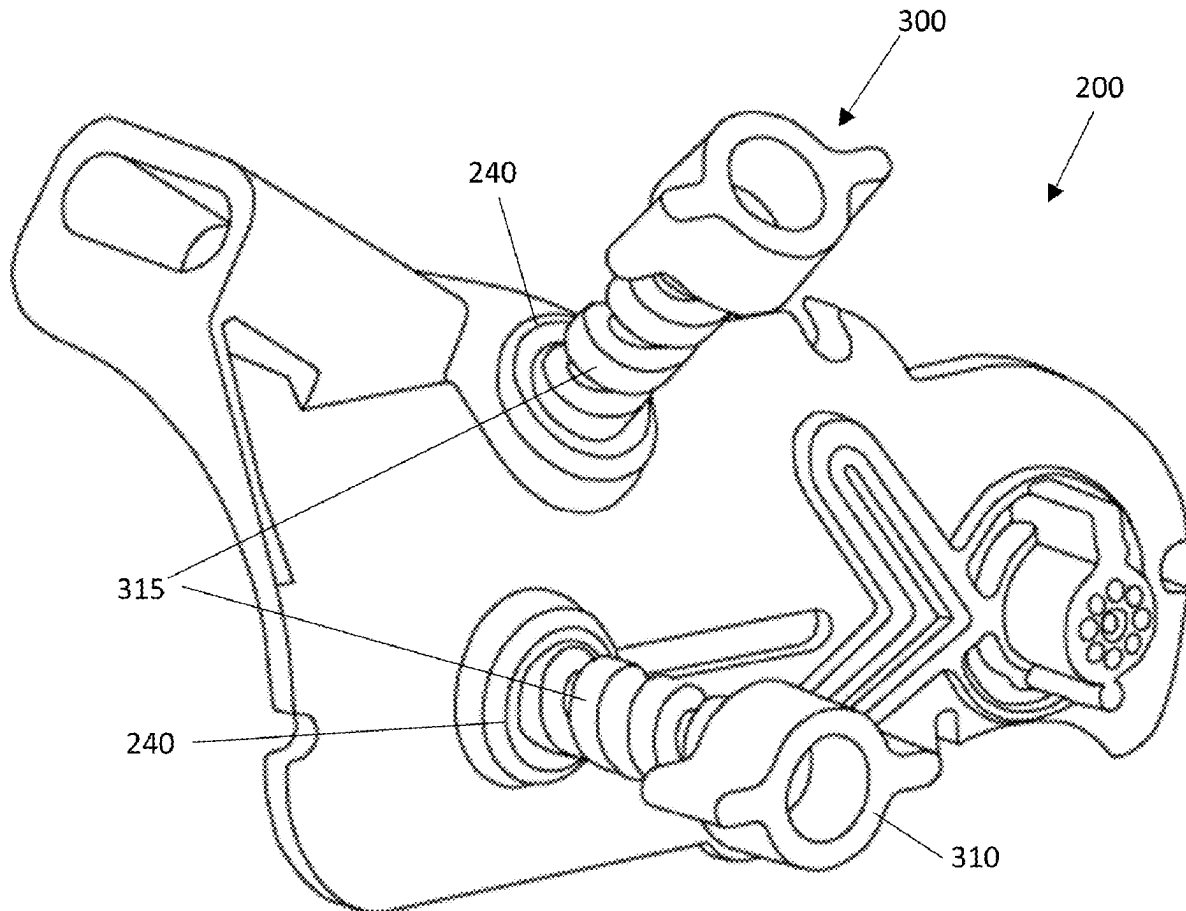
A61B 17/15 (2006.01)

A61B 17/16 (2006.01)

(57)

ABSTRACT

A minimally invasive precision cutting guide, targeting guide, implant, and other instruments comprise a system that permits a physician to surgically correct a bunion or similar deformity with a minimum disruption of surrounding soft tissue. The precision cutting guide ensures that the physician cuts bone in the proper location and orientation. Each of the instruments is designed to minimize disruption to surrounding soft tissue. The system also precisely locates an orthopedic implant such that it can fixate two bone fragments after an osteotomy, or two bones after surgery. The precision cutting guide, targeting guide, implant, and other instruments are provided in a sterile kit for the convenience of the surgeon and safety of the patient.



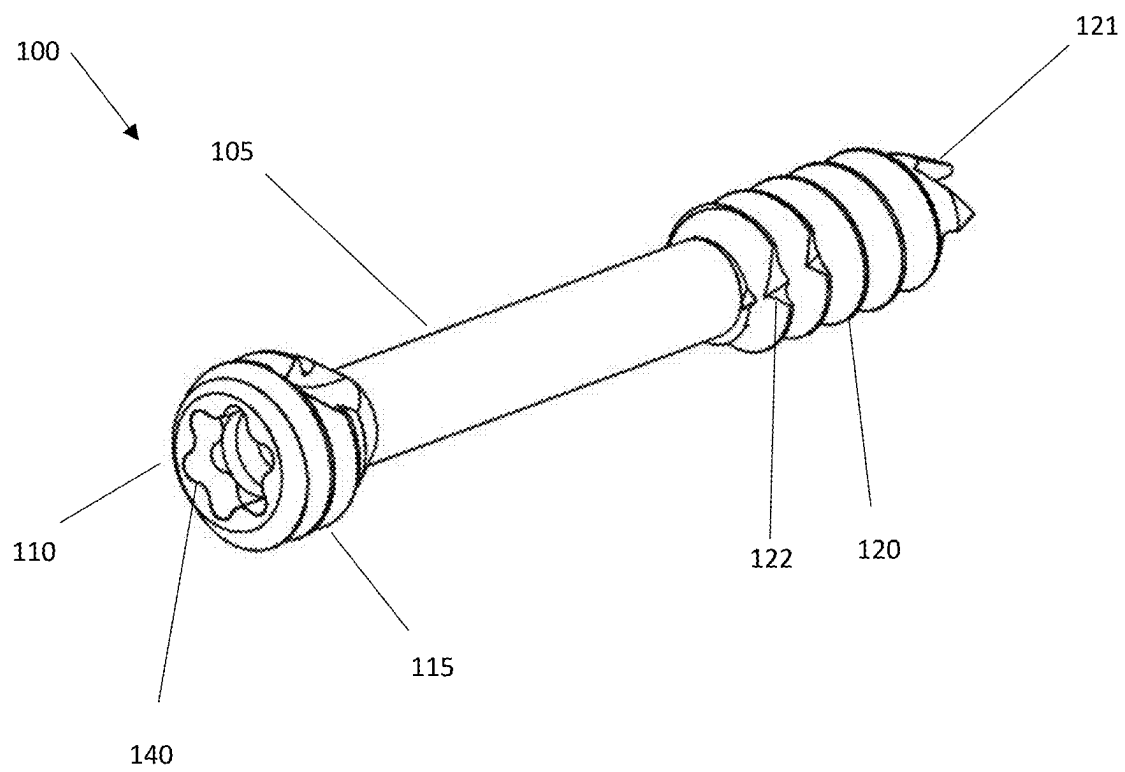


Figure 1

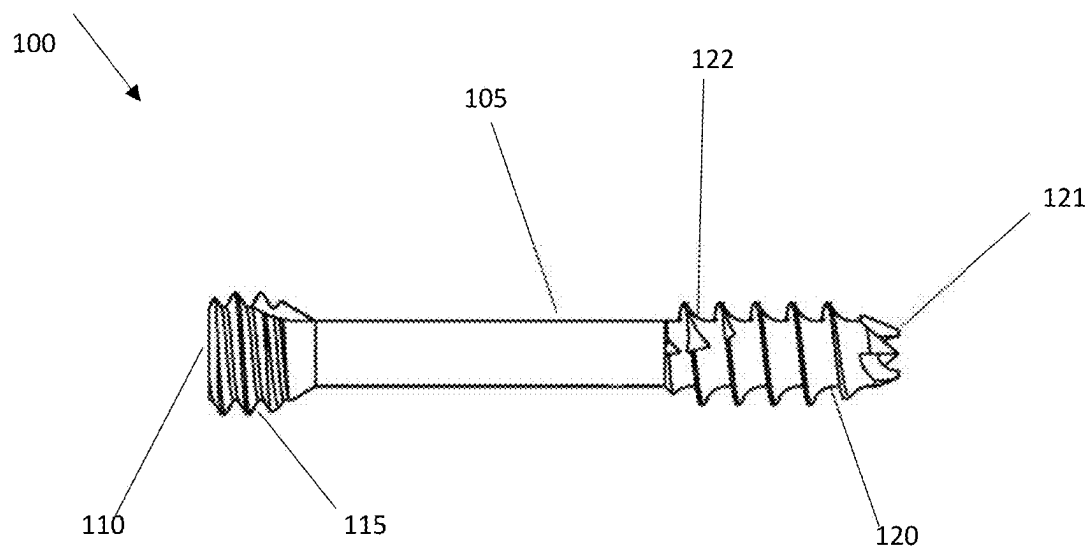


Figure 2

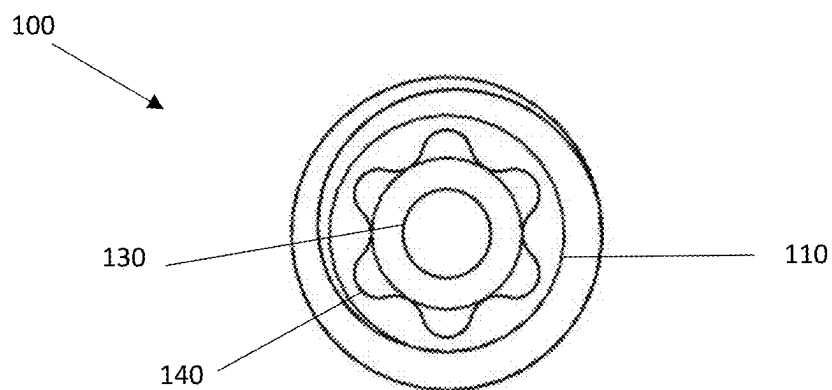


Figure 3

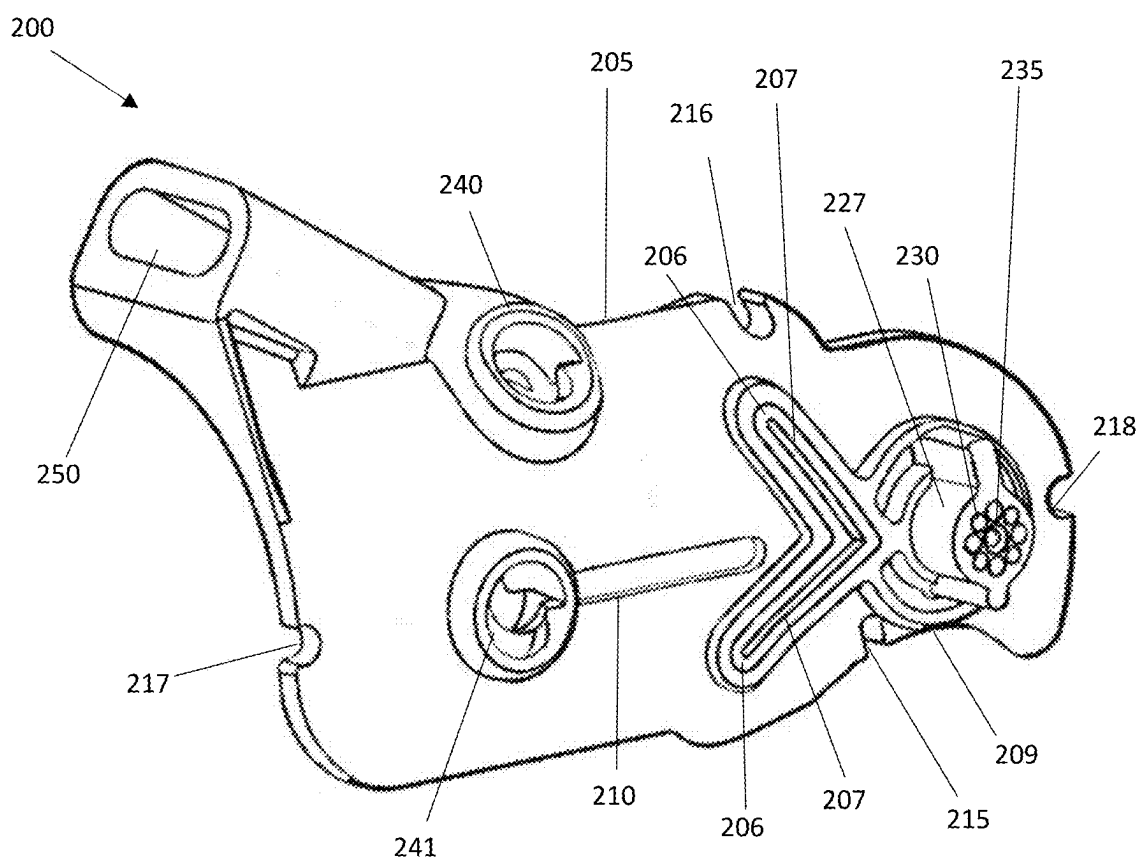


Figure 4

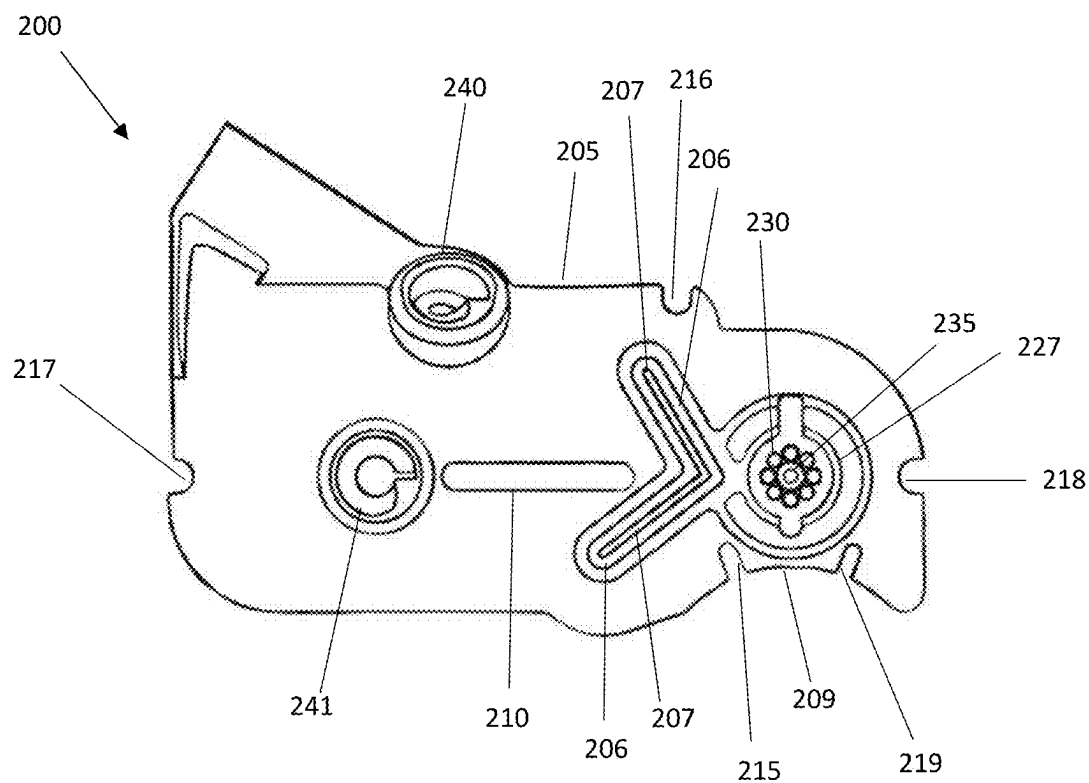


Figure 5

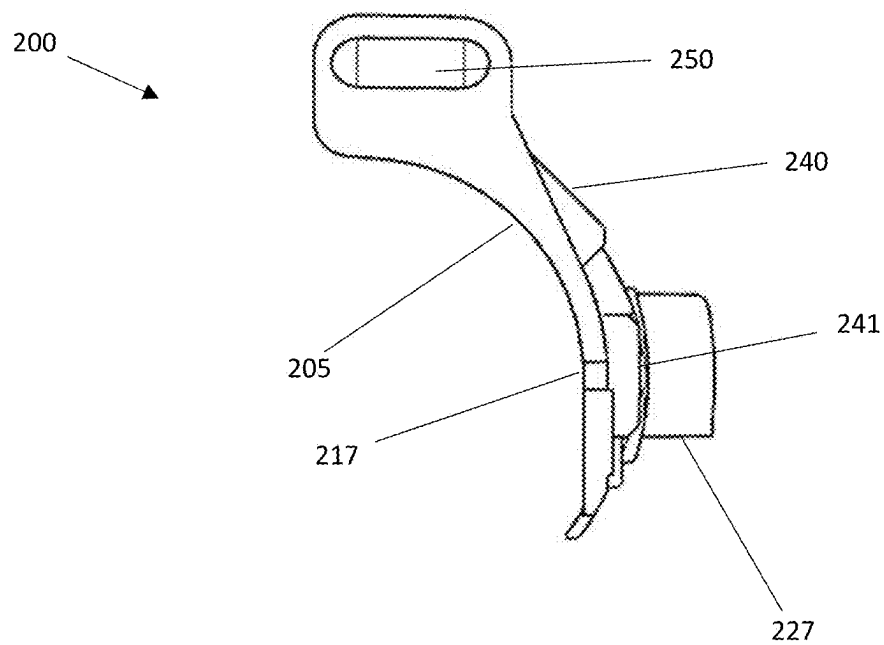


Figure 6

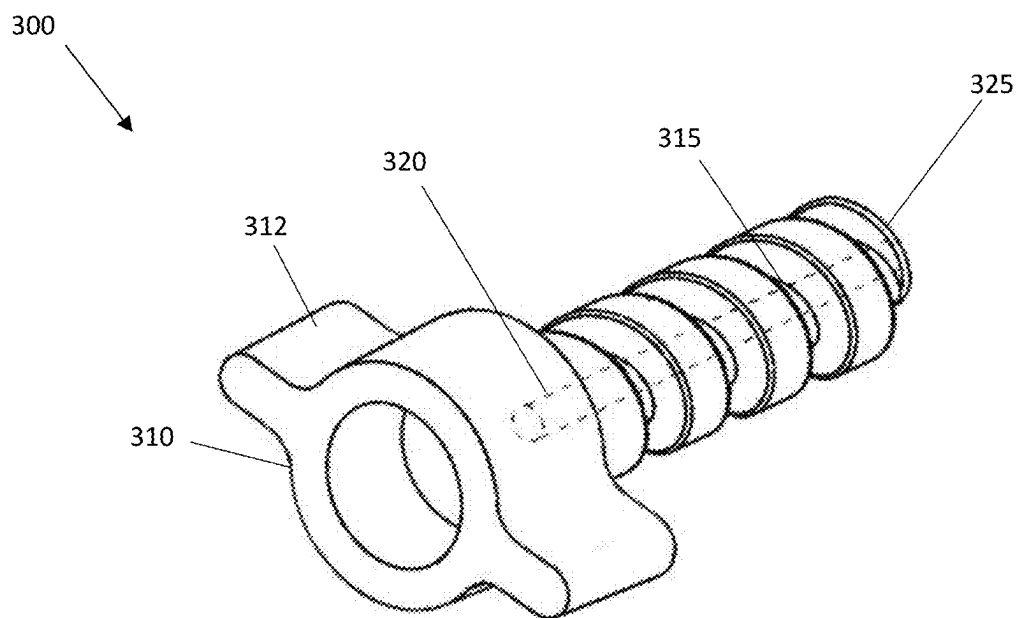


Figure 7

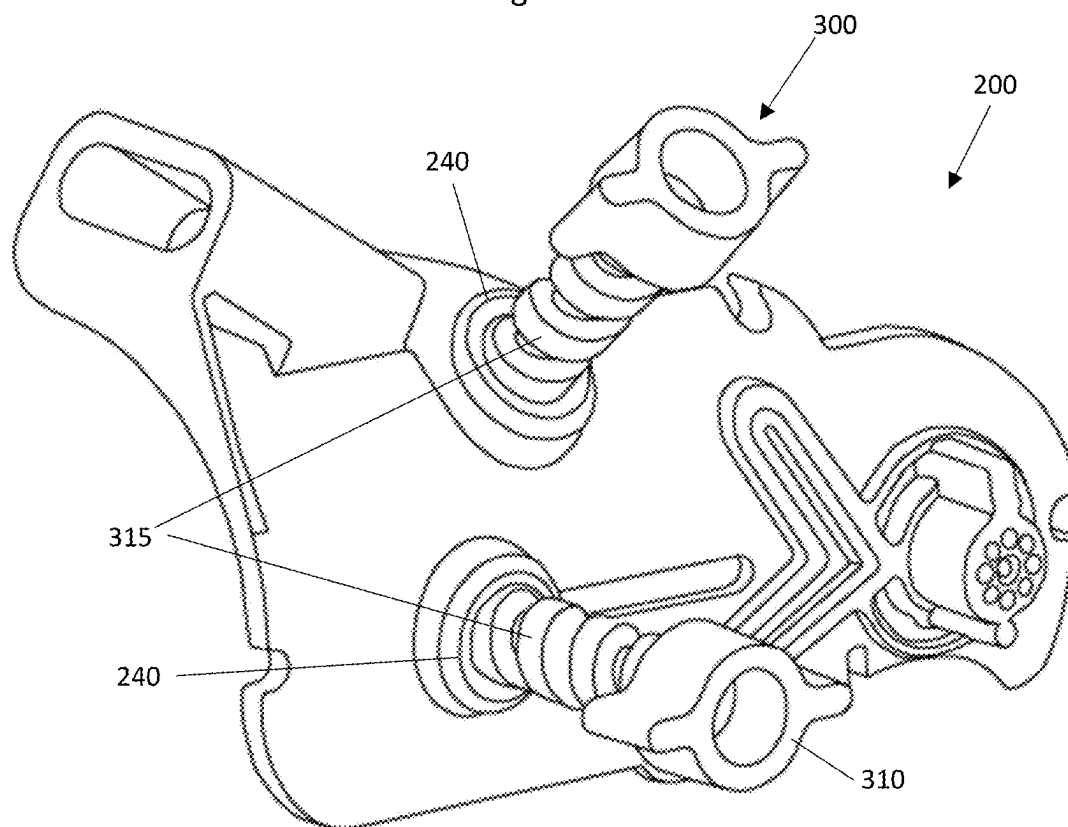


Figure 8

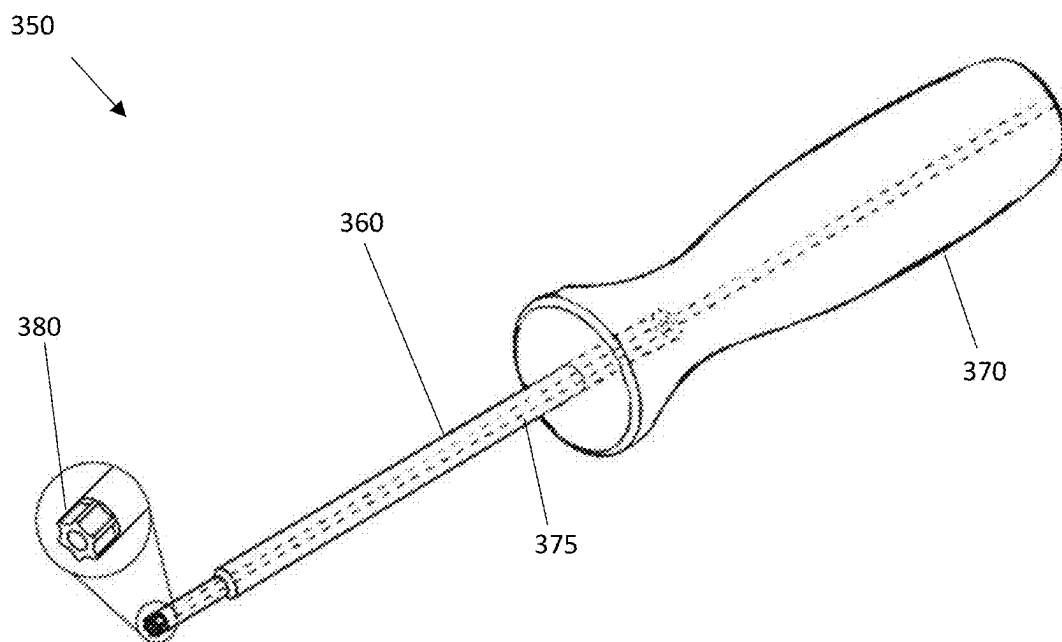


Figure 9

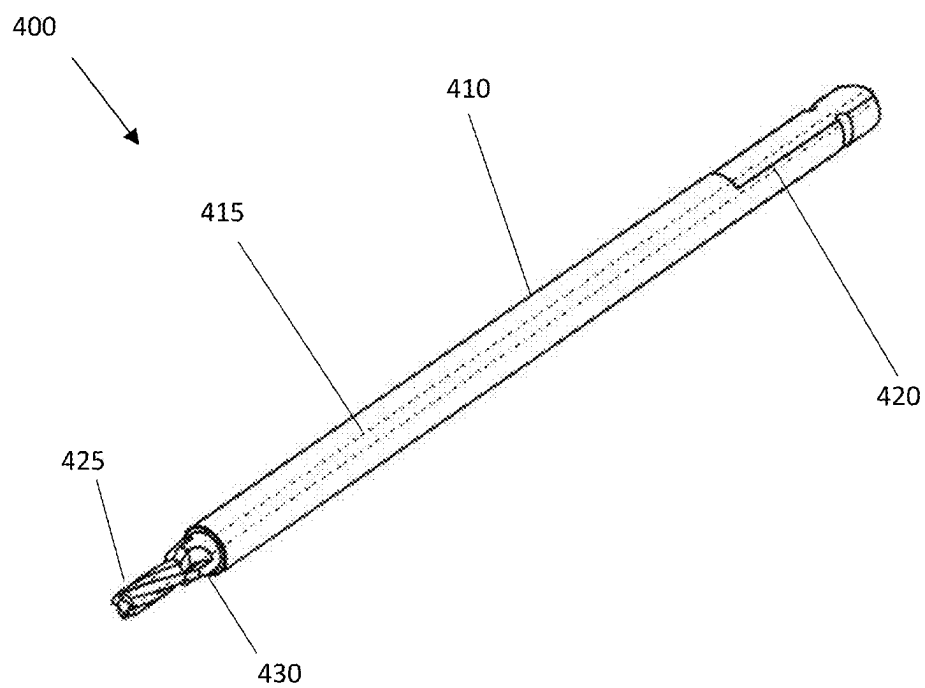


Figure 10

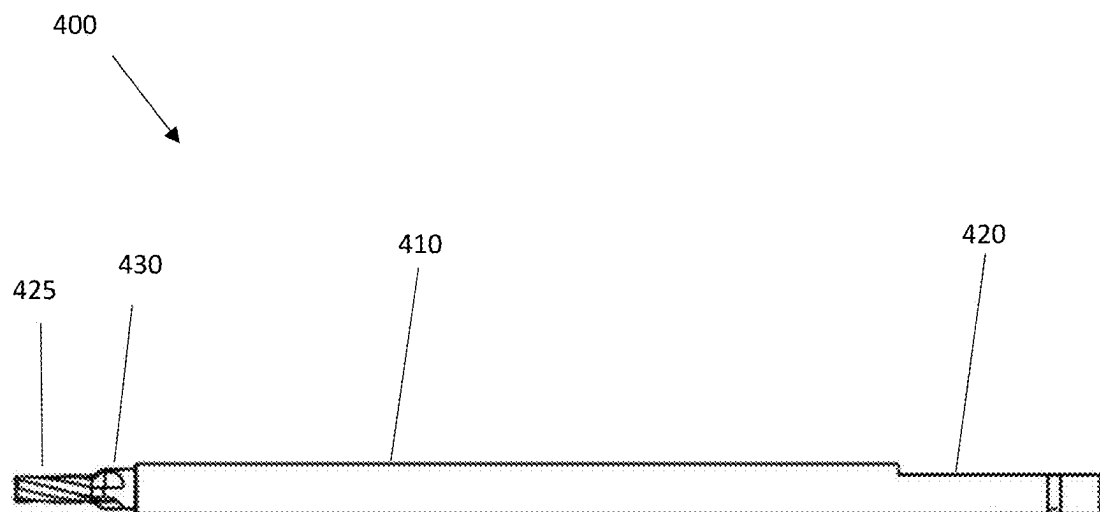


Figure 11

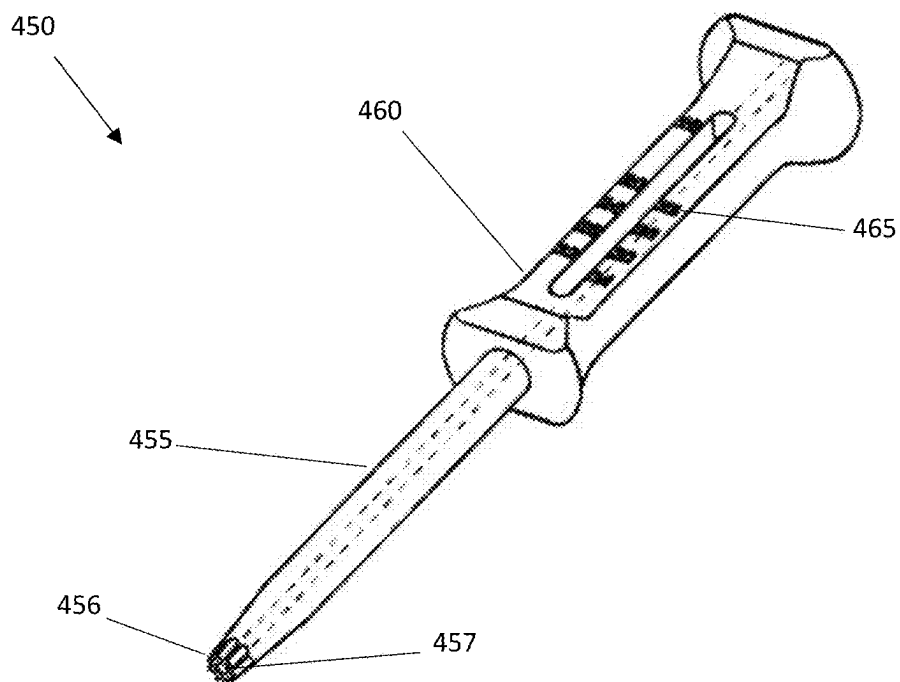


Figure 12

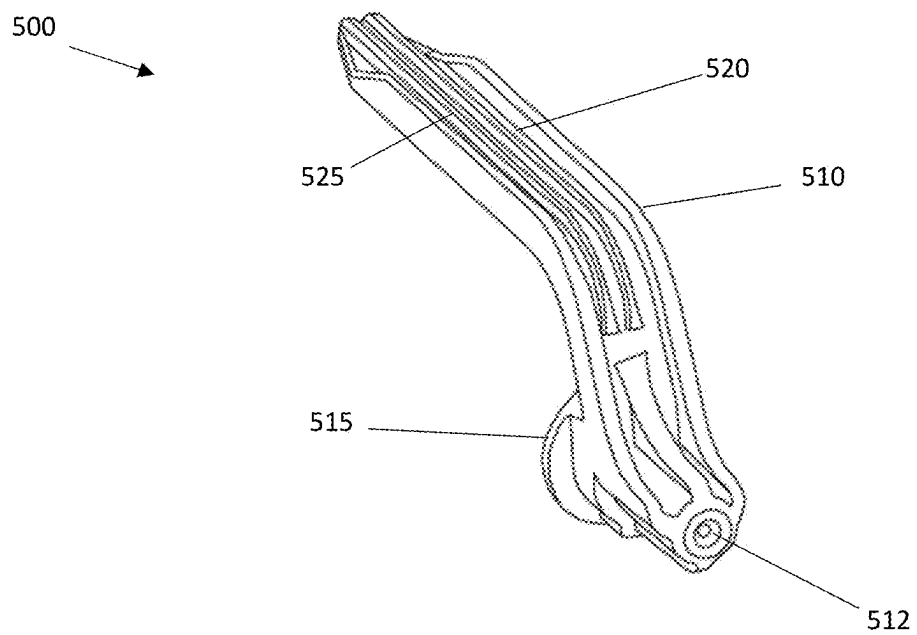


Figure 13A

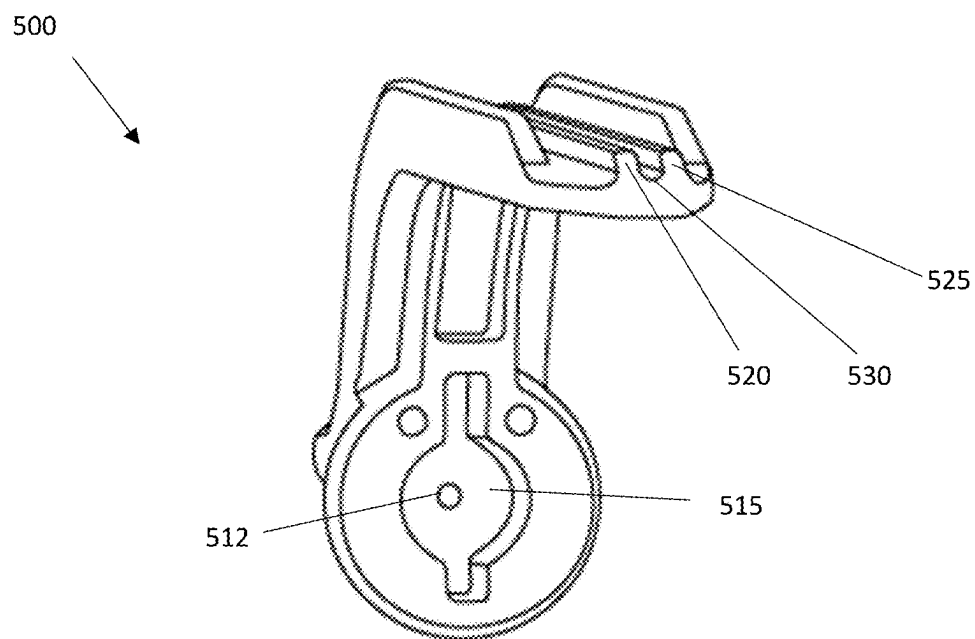


Figure 13B

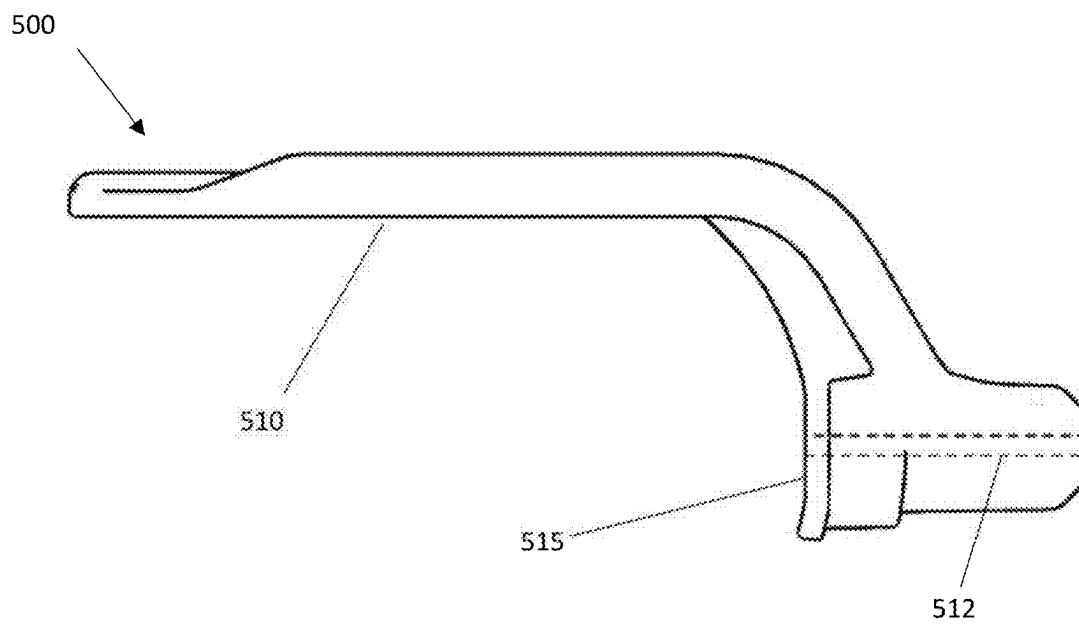


Figure 14

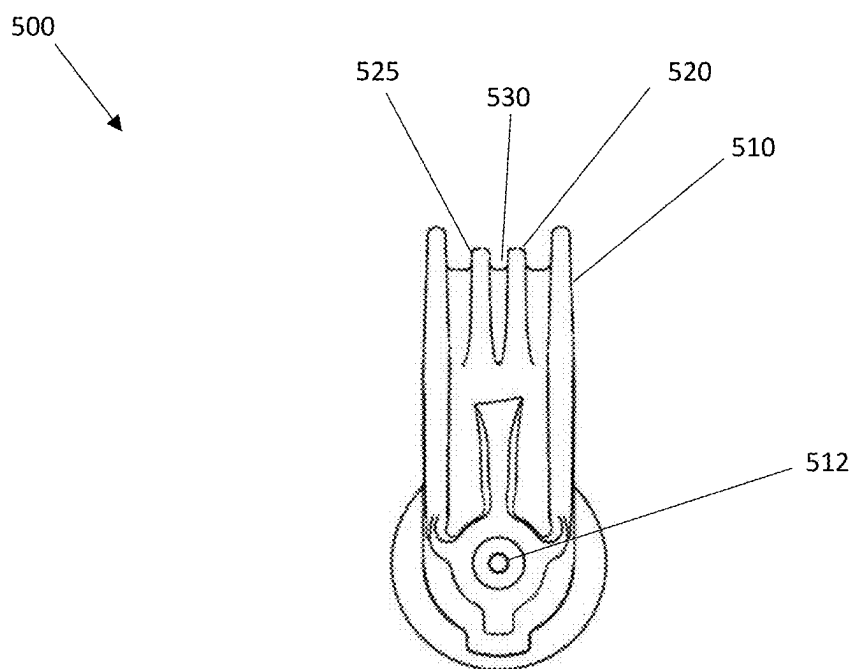


Figure 15

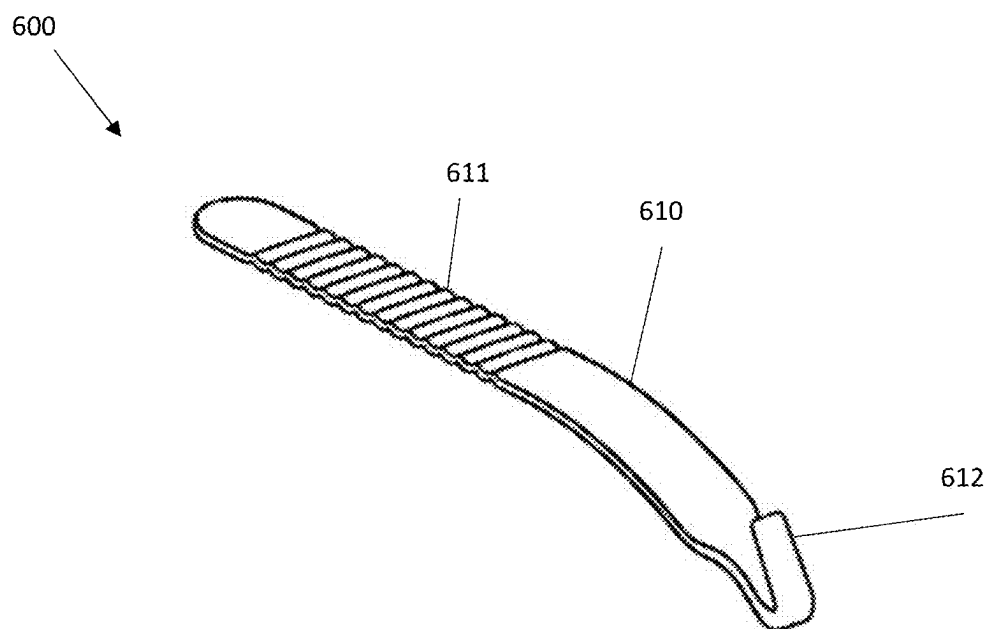


Figure 16

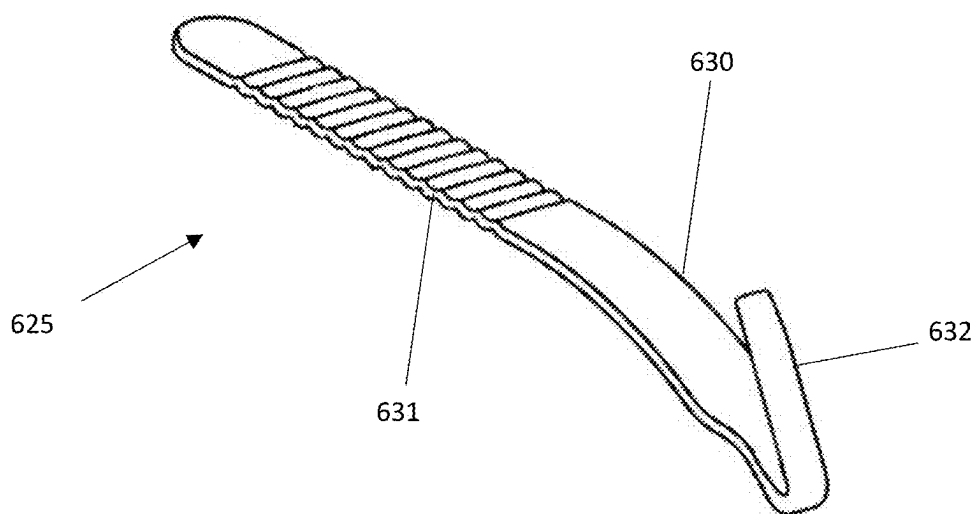


Figure 17

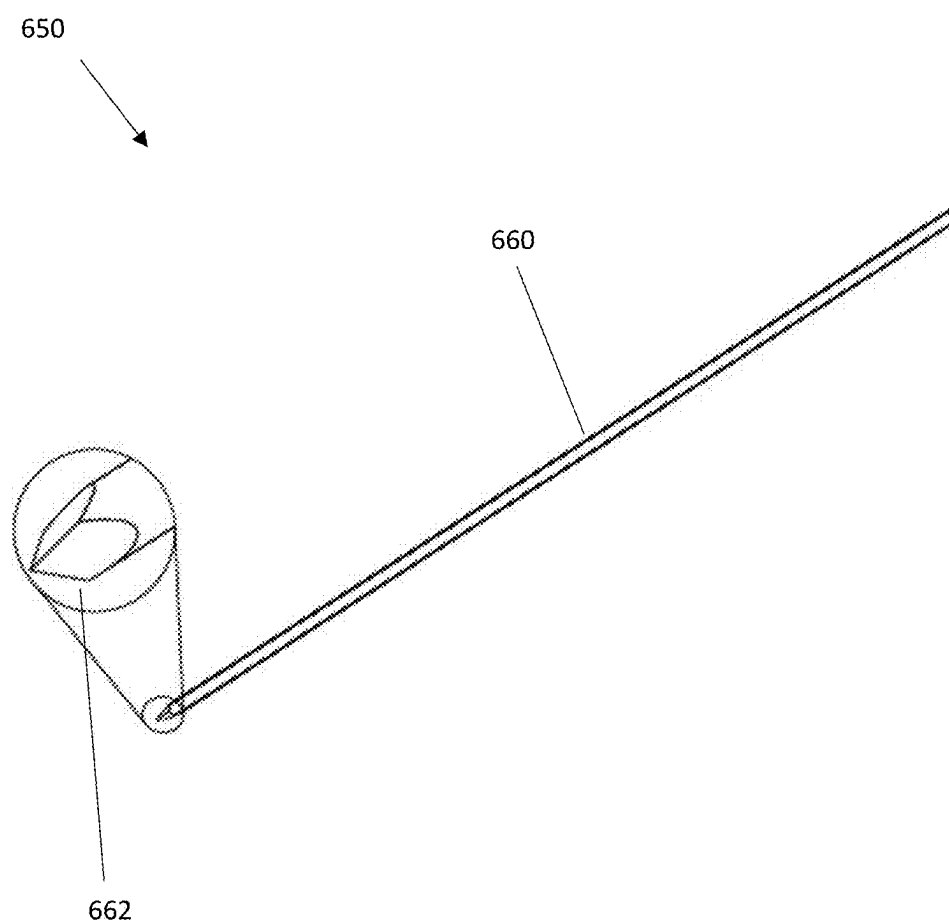


Figure 18

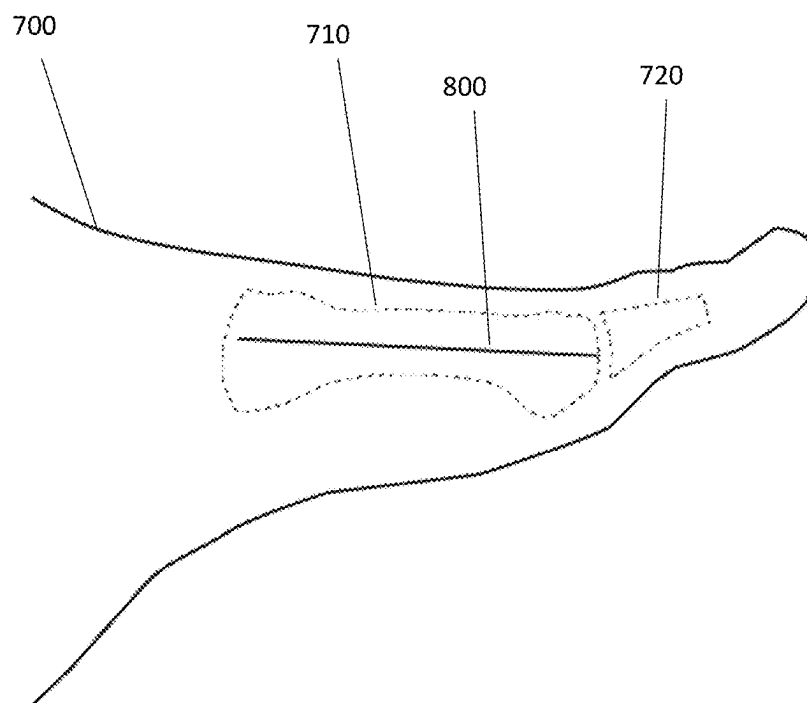


Figure 19

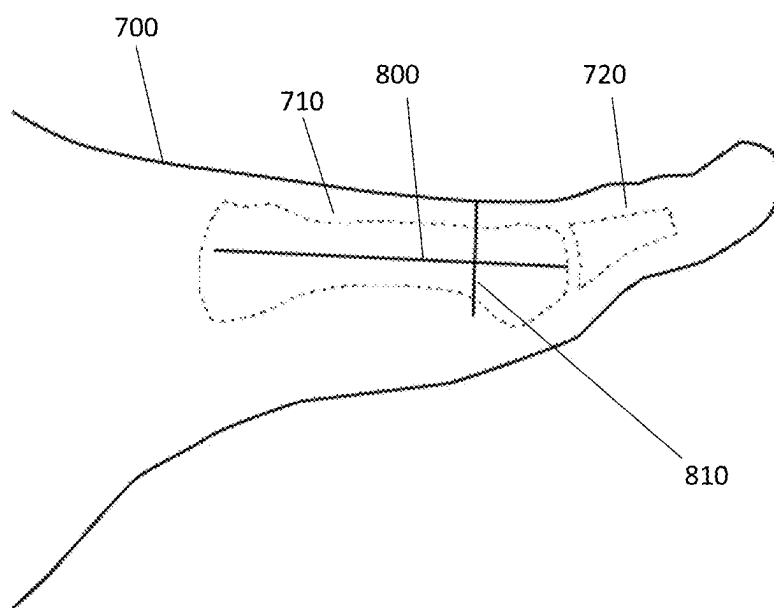


Figure 20

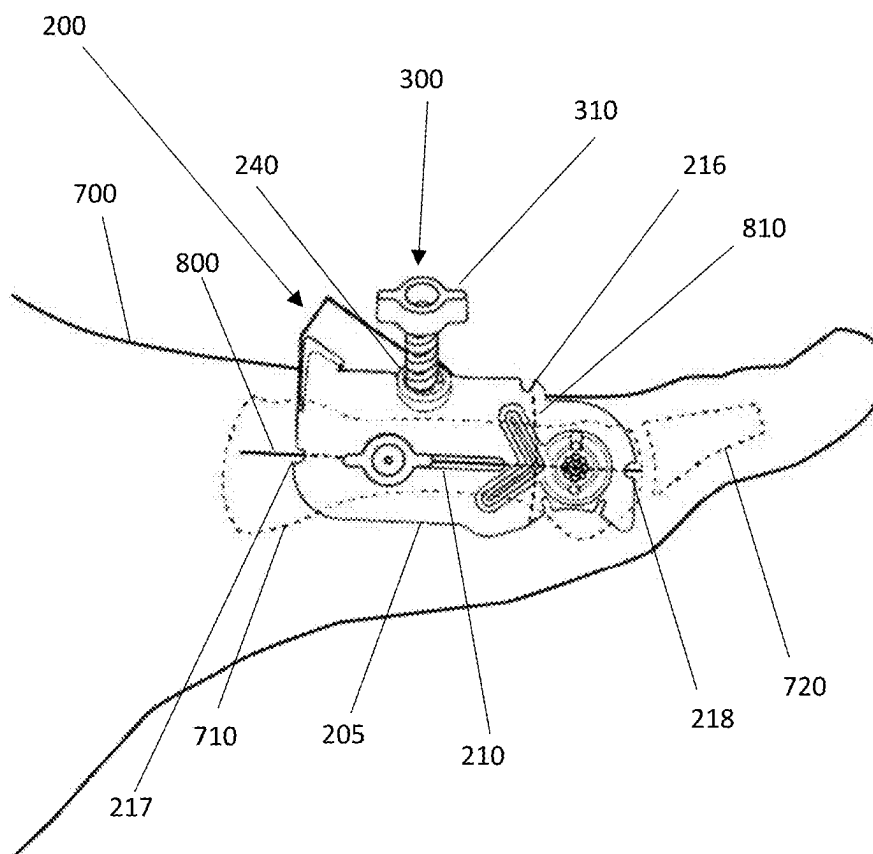


Figure 21

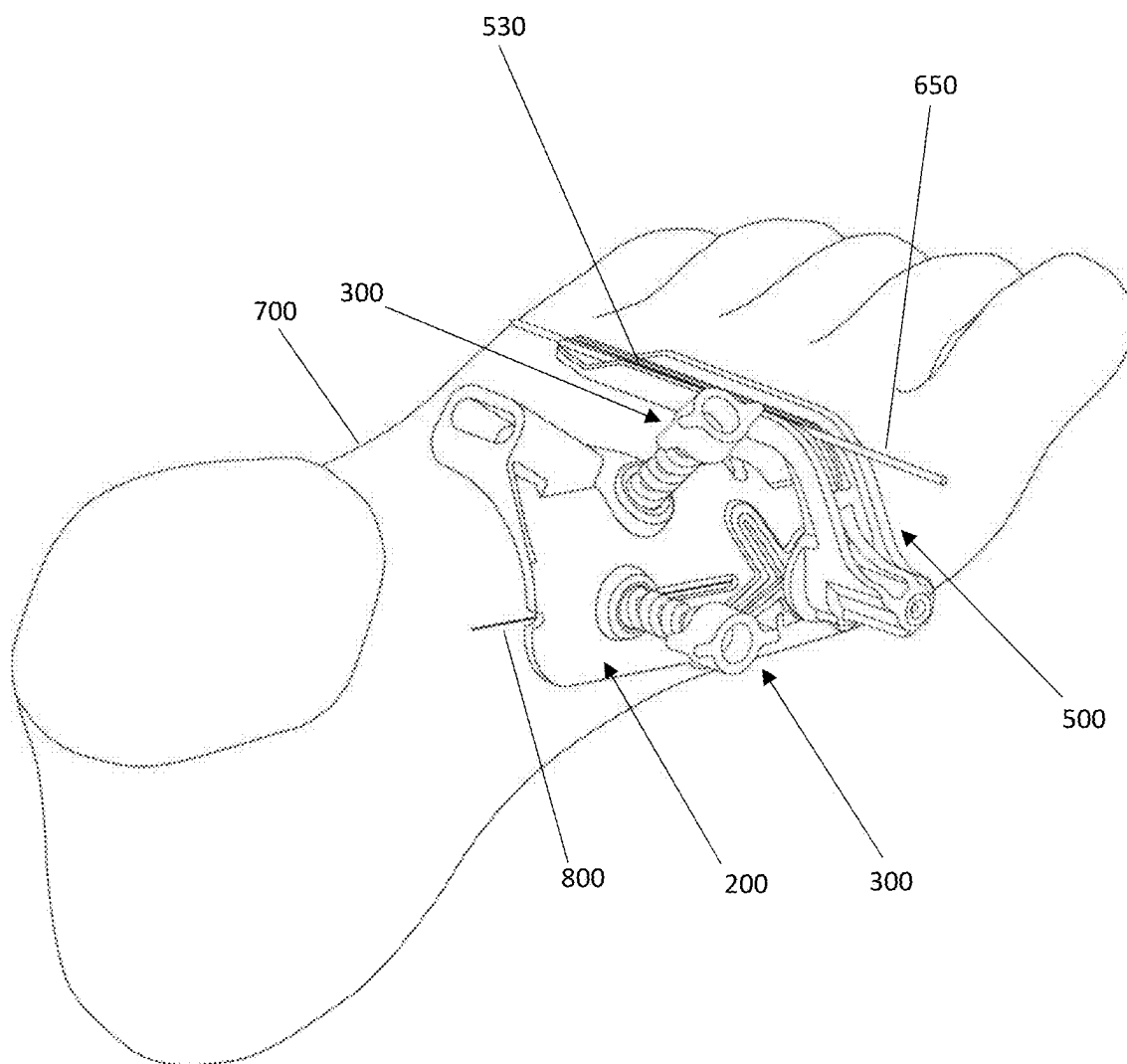


Figure 22

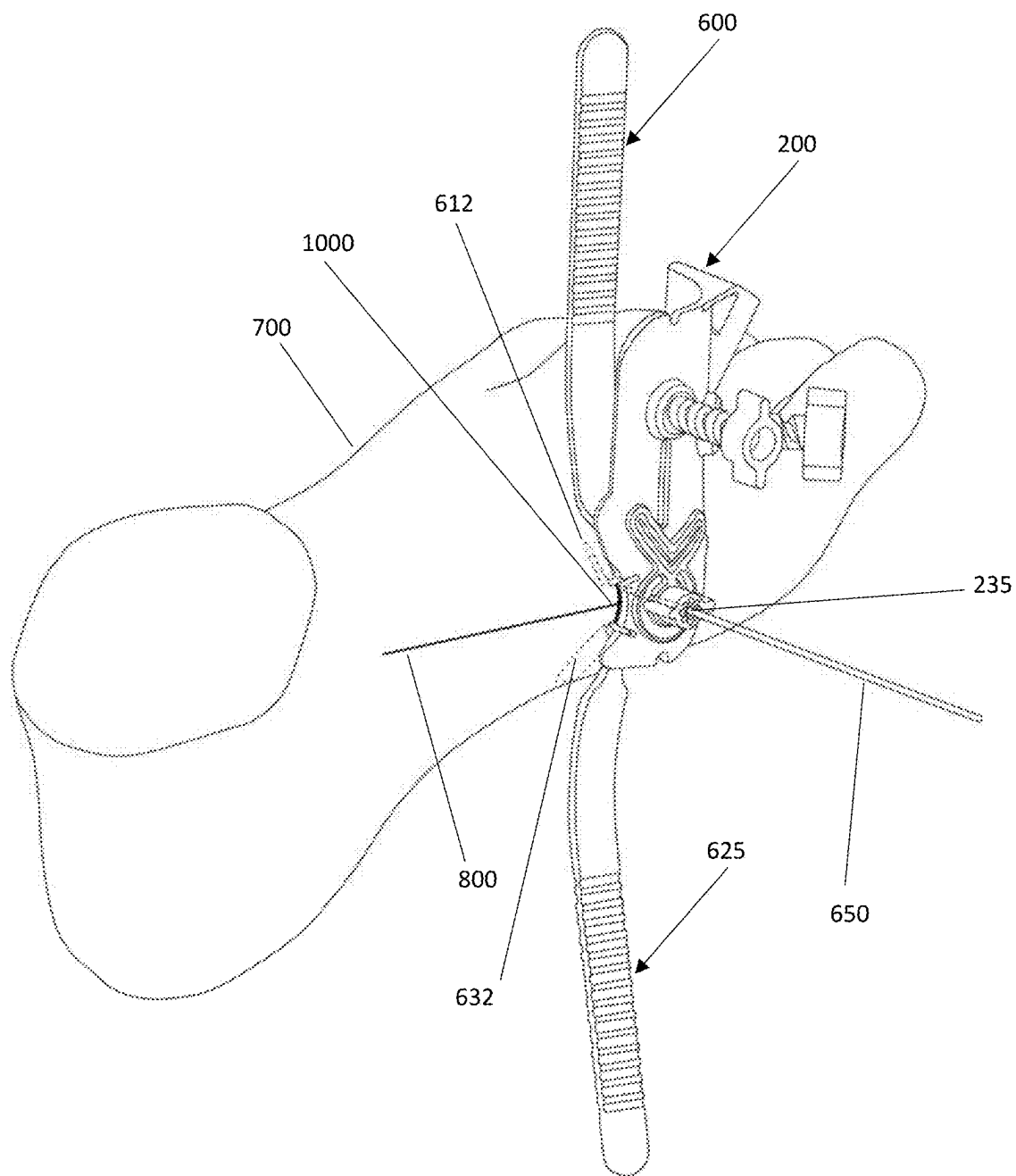


Figure 25

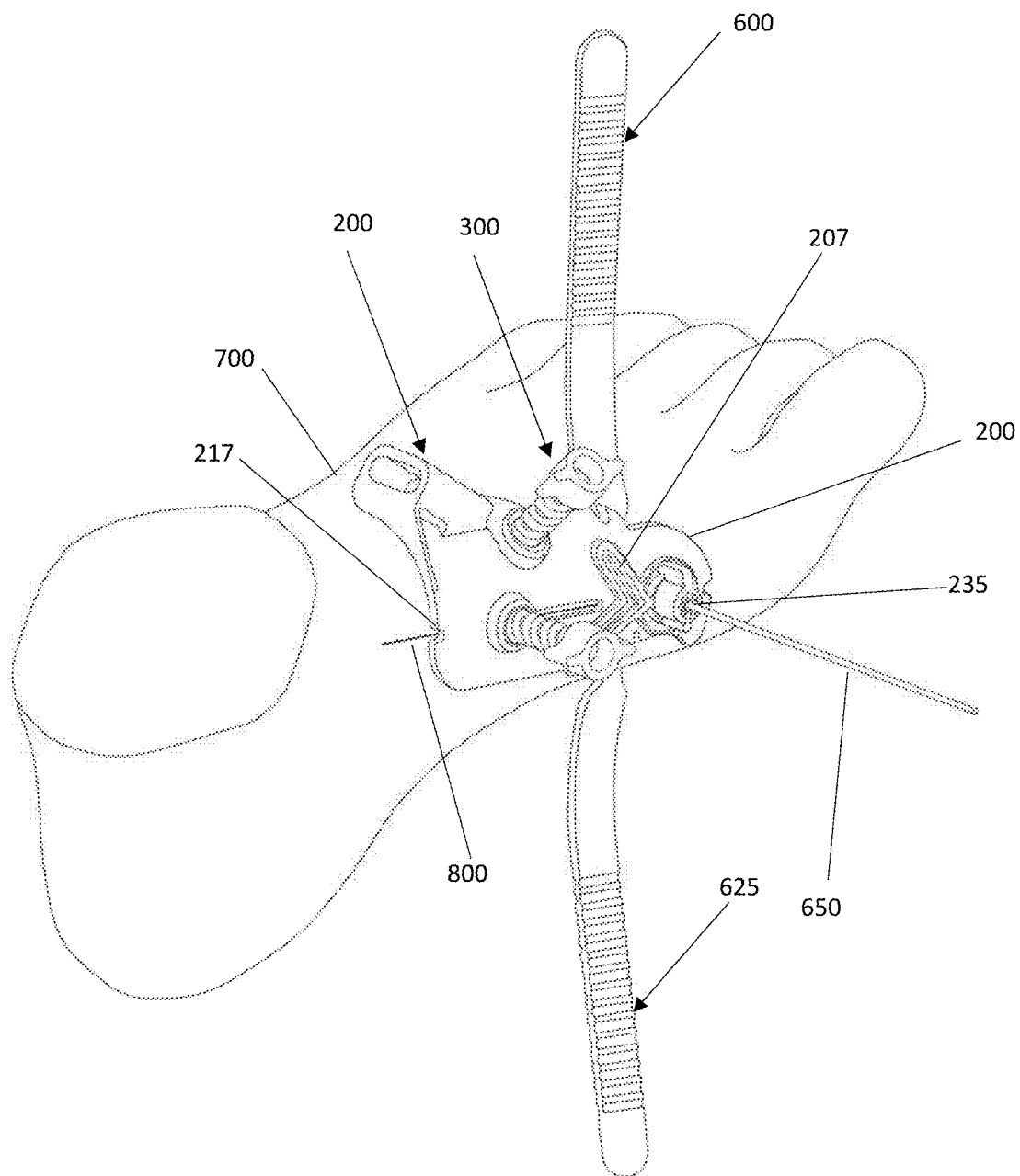


Figure 26

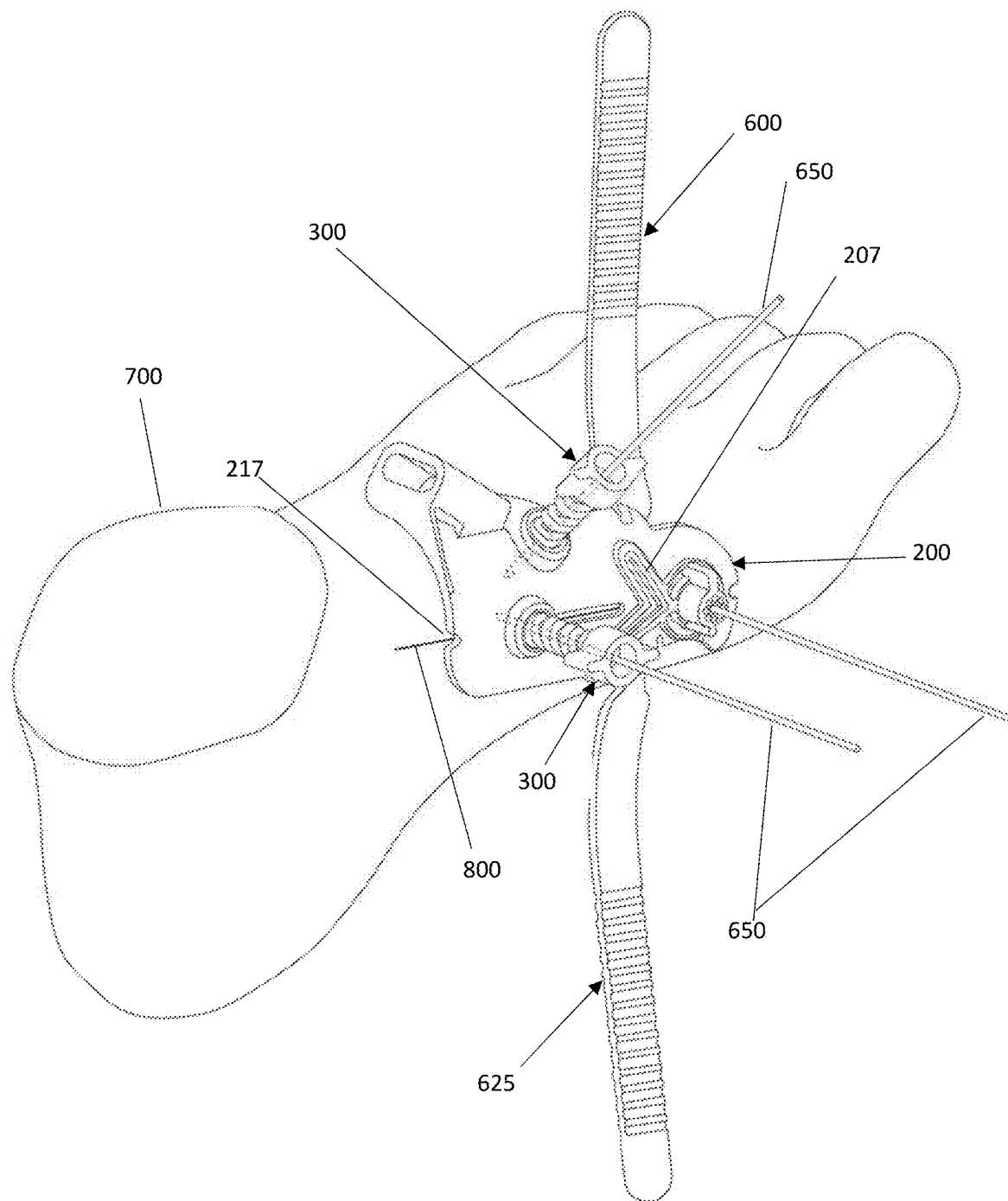


Figure 27

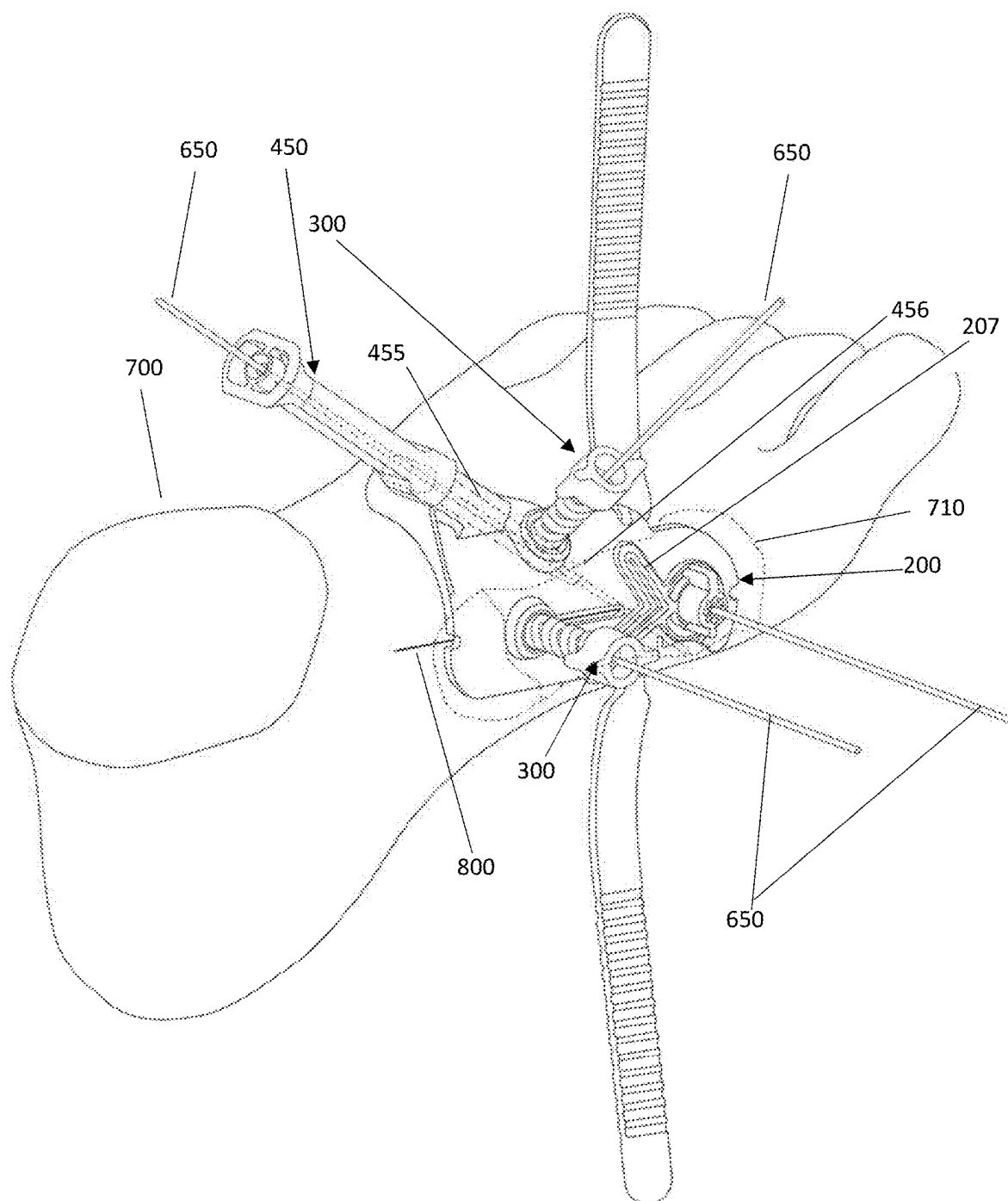


Figure 28

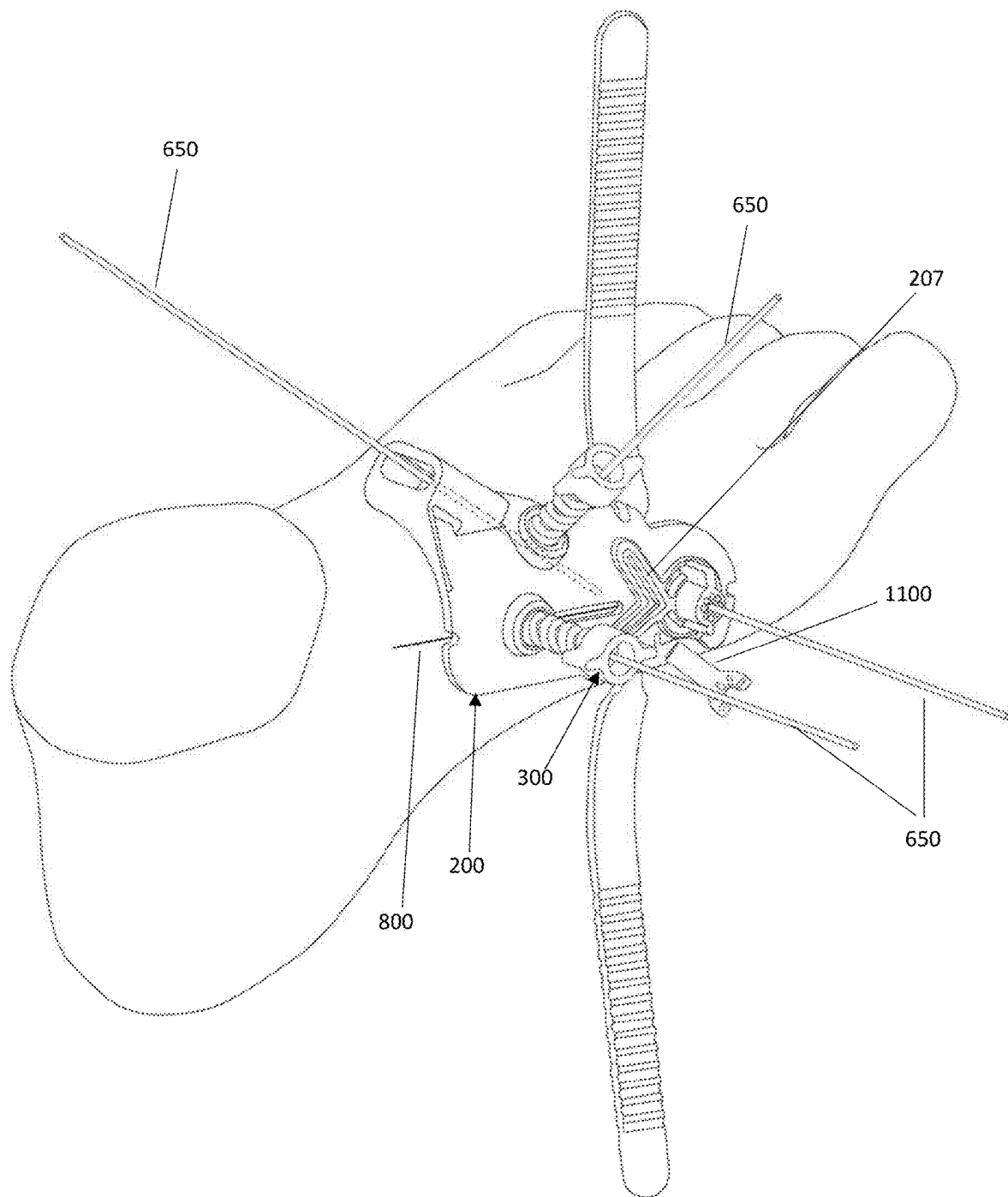


Figure 29A

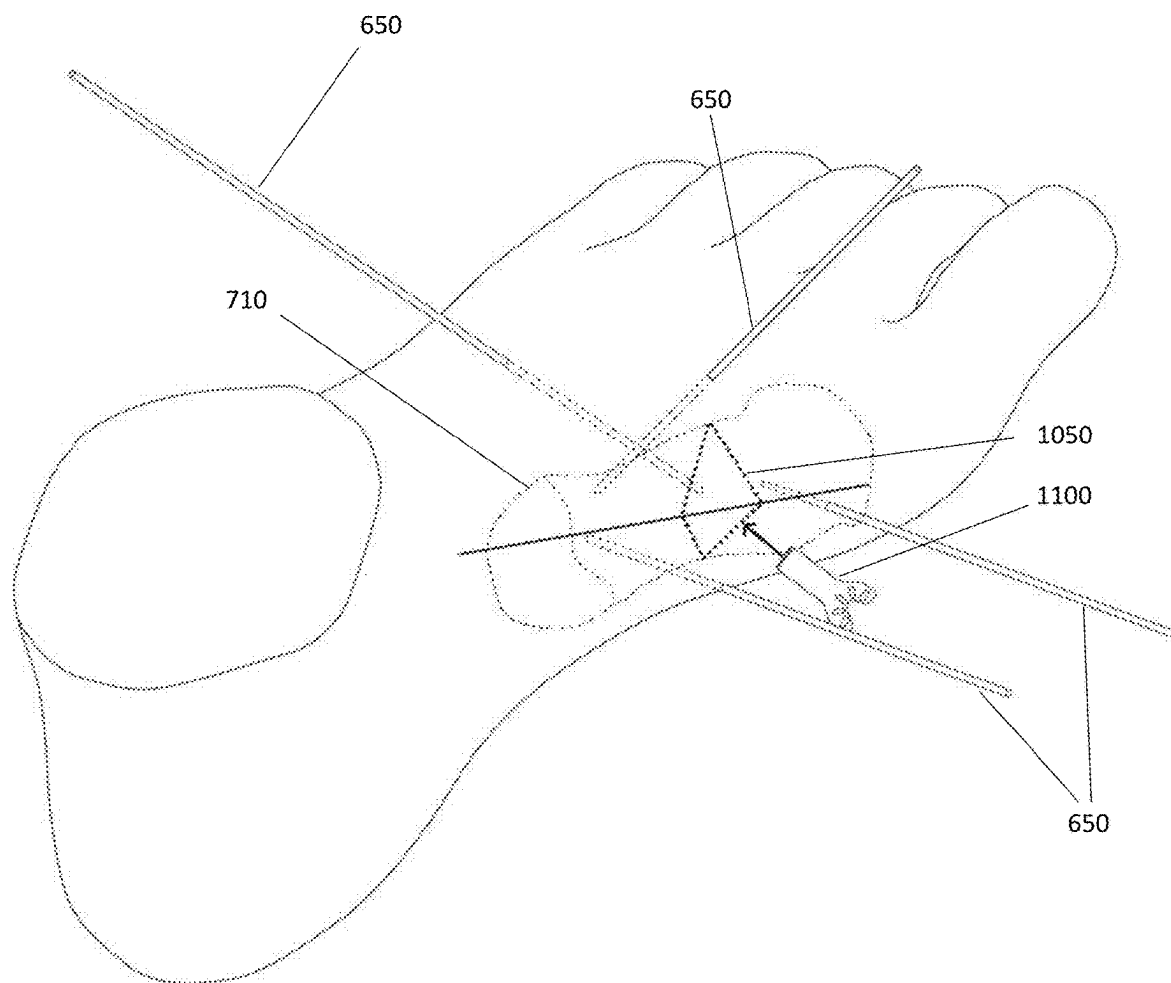


Figure 29B

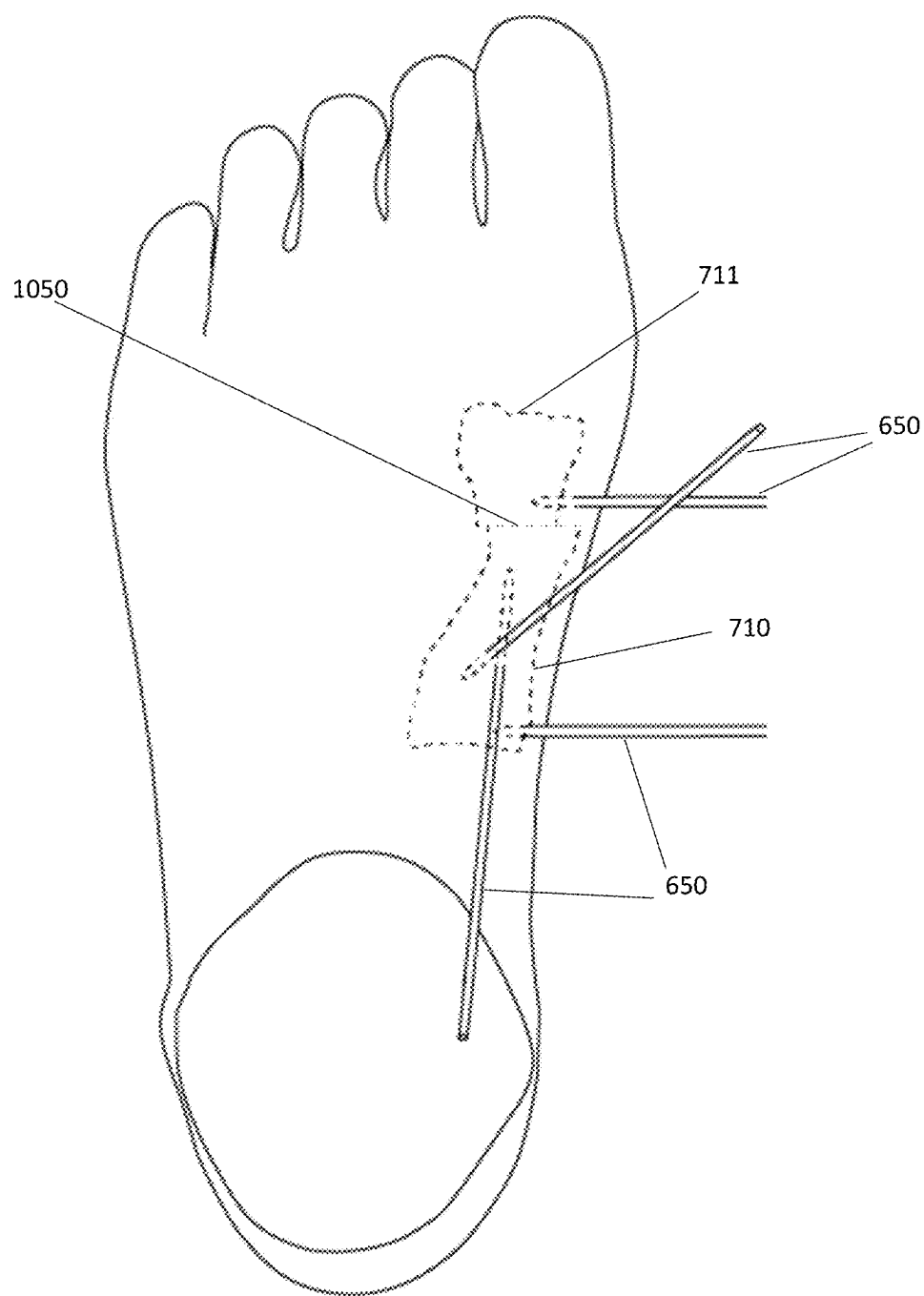


Figure 30

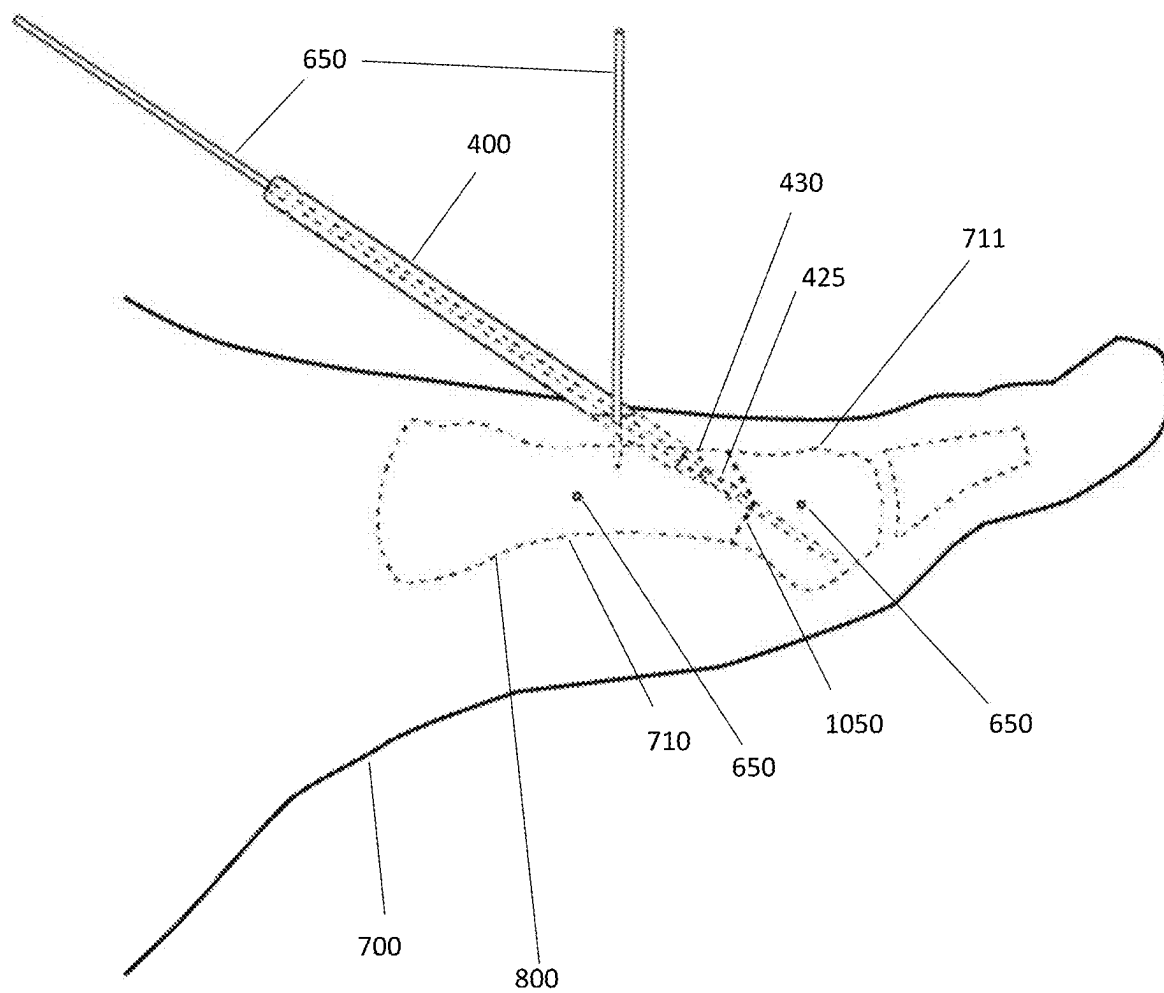


Figure 31

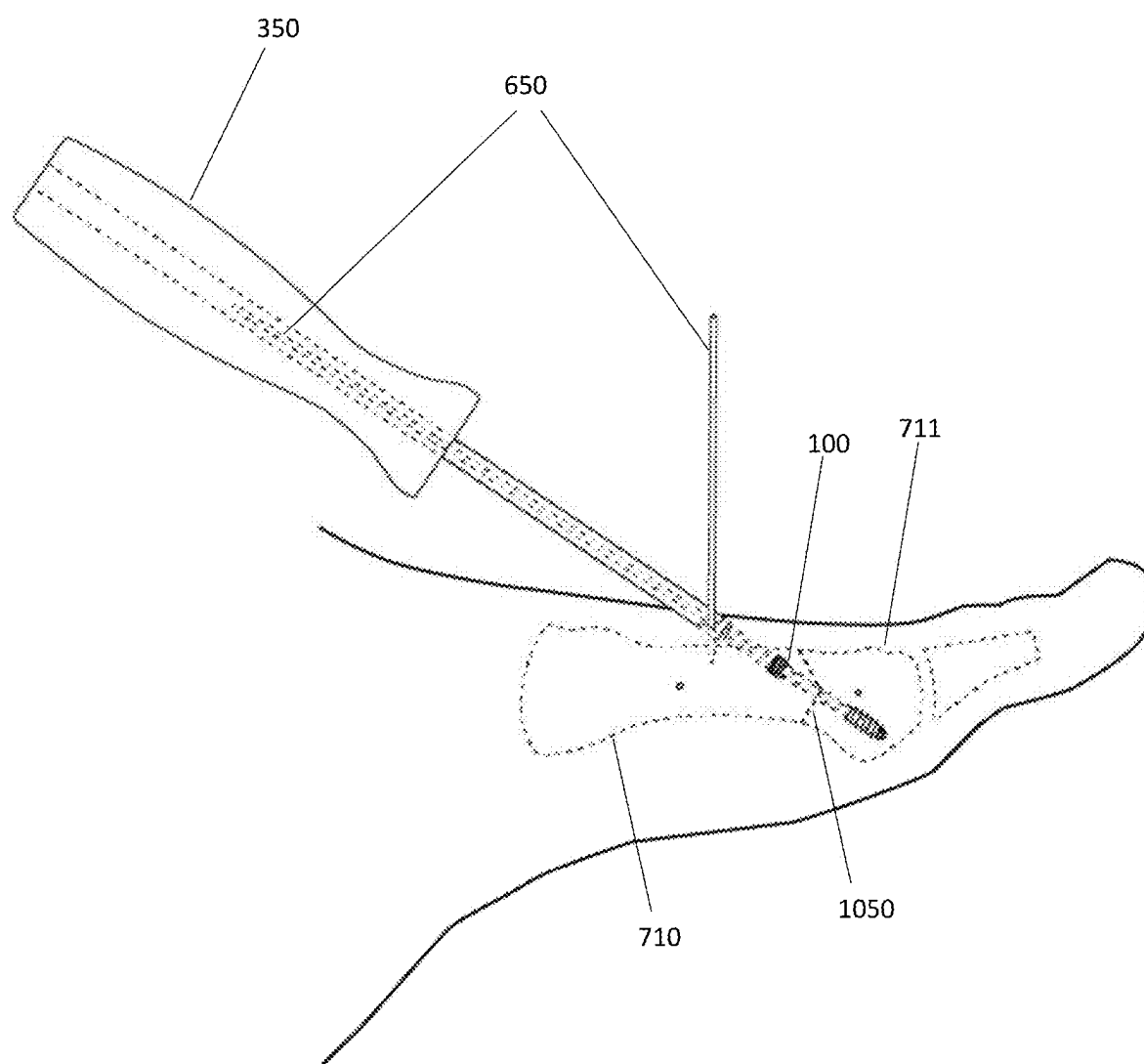


Figure 32

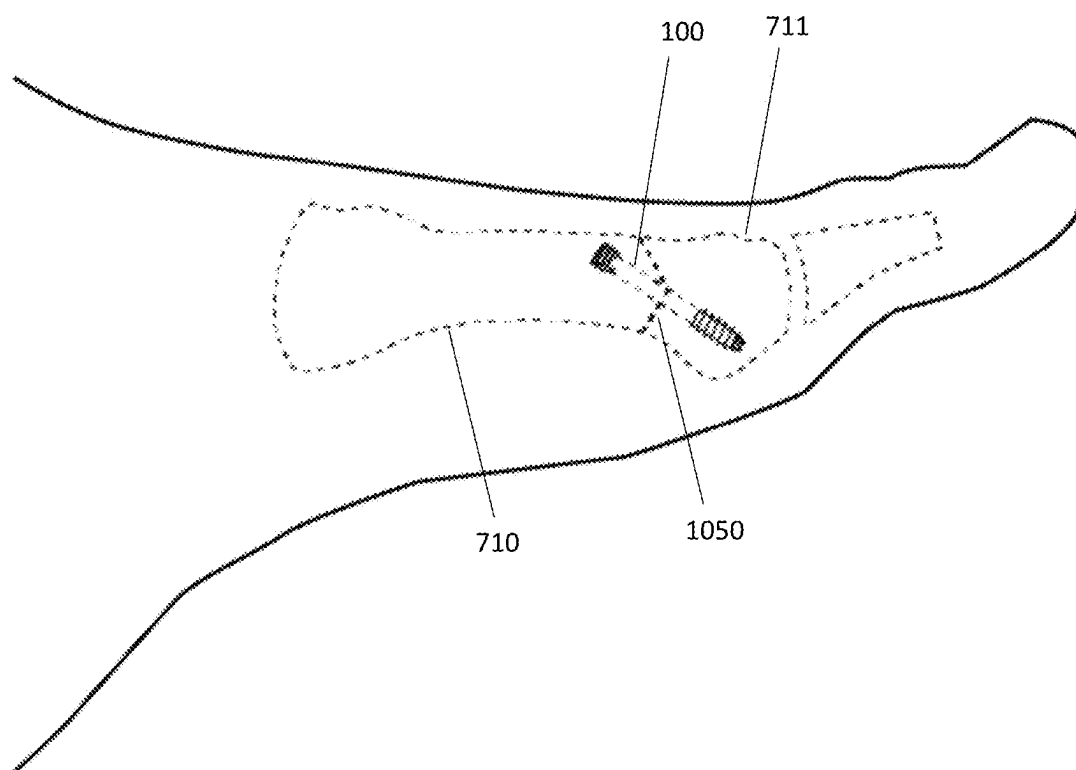


Figure 33A

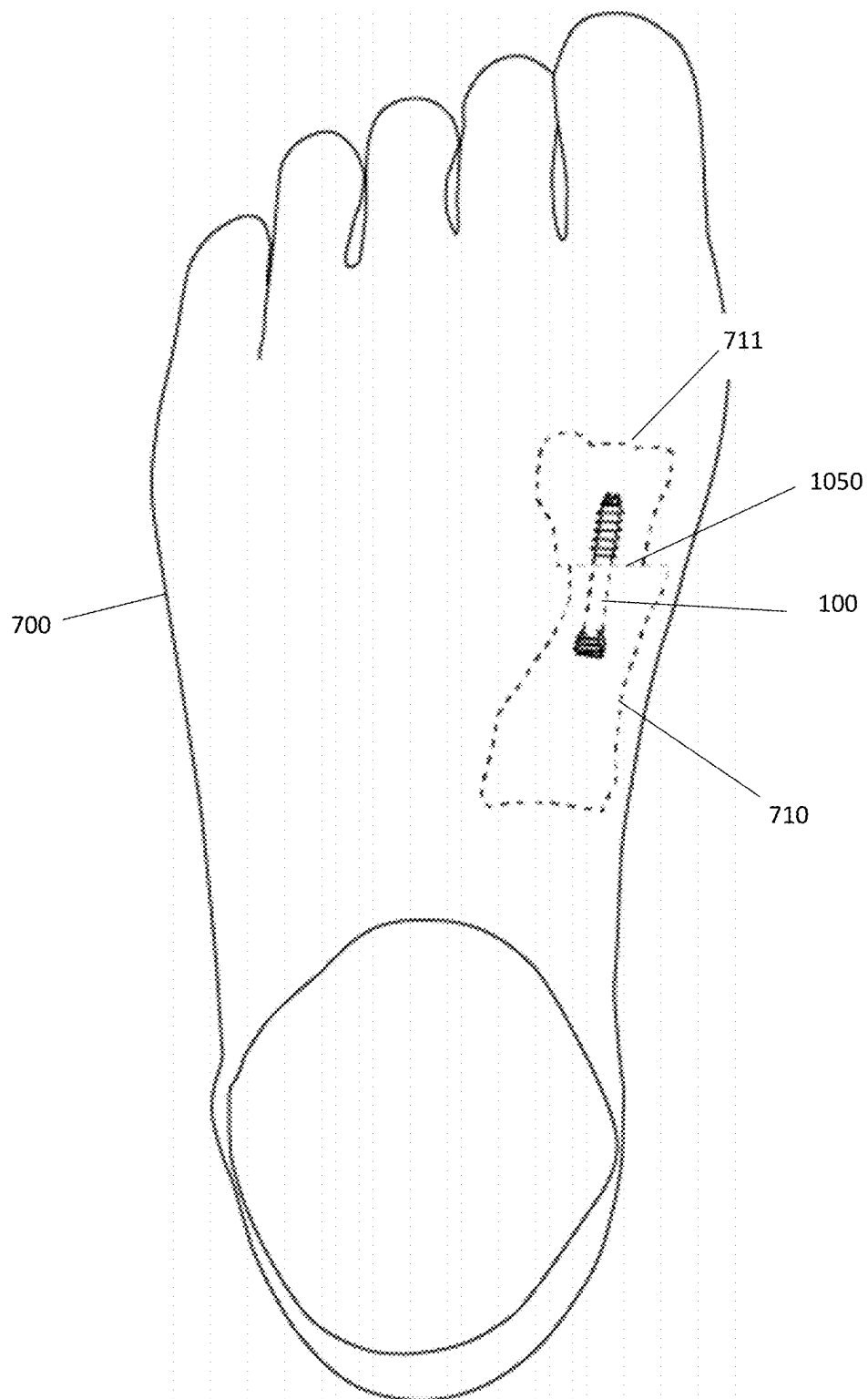


Figure 33B

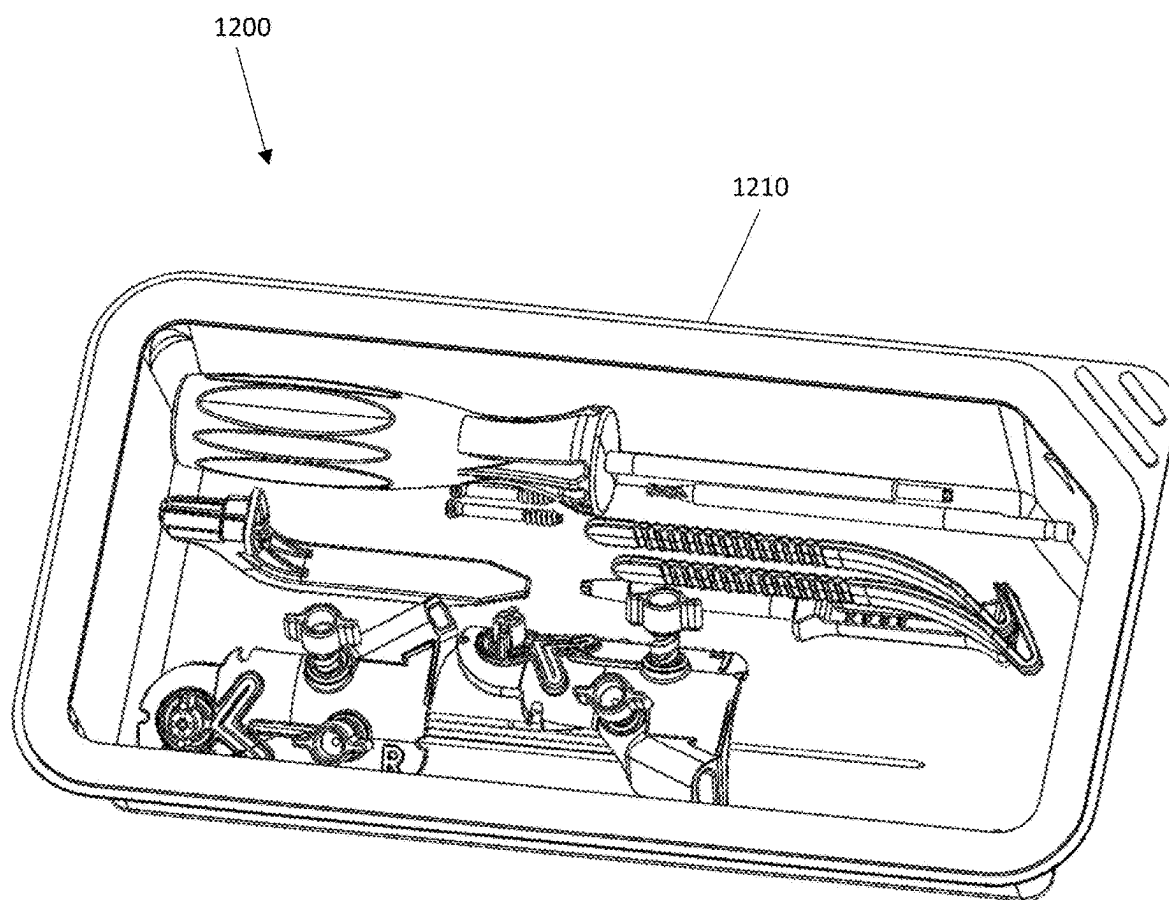


Figure 34

METHOD, SURGICAL APPARATUS, AND SURGICAL IMPLANT FOR MINIMALLY INVASIVE SURGICAL PROCEDURES

CROSS-REFERENCE TO RELATED APPLICATION

[0001] The present application is a continuation of U.S. application Ser. No. 17/637,292 filed on Feb. 22, 2022 (US Pat. No. 12,295,589, issued May 13, 2025) and entitled Method, Surgical Apparatus, and Surgical Implant for Minimally Invasive Surgical Procedures, which is 371 application of international PCT/US2020/64002 filed on Dec. 9, 2020, which claims priority on U.S. Provisional Patent Application Ser. No. 62/947,376, filed Dec. 12, 2019 and entitled MIS Chevron Surgical Guide and Processes for Using the Same, the entirety of both of which is hereby incorporated herein by reference.

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

1. Field of the Invention

[0002] The present invention relates in general to the field of surgery. More particularly, the present invention relates to an orthopedic implant, surgical instruments for use and delivery of the implant, surgical instruments for creation of an osteotomy, and the surgical technique used with these items. Specifically, a preferred embodiment of the present invention relates to methods and instruments used for minimally invasive surgery.

2. Discussion of the Related Art

[0003] An osteotomy is a surgical procedure that involves cutting, reshaping, or removing bone. Osteotomies are usually performed to correct a deformity in the bone. One common deformity that can be repaired by surgery is hallux valgus, also known as a bunion. Hallux valgus is a foot deformity that causes functional disability and pain and involves misalignment of the first metatarsal and phalanx.

[0004] Surgical correction frequently involves cutting bone, realigning or shifting the bones to the proper anatomical configuration, and then fixing the bones in the new positions such that they heal. Fixation of the bones can occur with the use of orthopedic screws, shape memory implants, or plates and screws. The surgery frequently requires incisions in the skin and soft tissues and then subsequent cutting and drilling of bone. Many conventional systems for surgery of this type require extensive dissection of soft tissue such that the physician can see the underlying bone. Extensive dissection such as this can limit or damage blood flow to the affected area and slow healing. Extensive dissection of soft tissue also risks penetrating the area around a joint, potentially permanently compromising proper joint motion. Soft tissue dissection can also damage nerves, increase swelling, or increase post-surgical pain.

[0005] Therefore, during surgery of this type, it is frequently an objective of the surgeon to avoid unnecessary disruption of tissue. This can be accomplished by both careful surgical techniques, as well as specially designed instruments and implants that minimize unnecessary tissue disruption. In particular, a precision guide can assist a physician in accomplishing surgery with minimal tissue dissection. A medical device system that is designed to assist

the surgeon in minimizing unnecessary disruption of tissue can be described as “minimally invasive surgery”.

[0006] Accordingly, what is needed is a medical device system that includes instruments, implants, and a surgical technique that work together to avoid unnecessary disruption of tissue and producing a successful surgical outcome. What is further needed are medical devices and processes that solves the problem outlined above associated with large incisions and variable surgical results. What is further needed is an apparatus and method of use resulting in minimal soft tissue disruption and providing specific guided steps for the surgery.

SUMMARY AND OBJECTS OF THE INVENTION

[0007] In accordance with a first aspect of the invention, an apparatus is provided that includes a precision cutting guide for creating an osteotomy. The guide includes a main body shaped to conform to an outside surface of a foot of a patient having at least one opening, a cutting guide insert with a chevron-shaped cutting slot capable of receiving a cutting instrument, at least one adjustment screw that is movable relative to the main body to secure the main body to the foot of the patient, and at least one guide wire insertable into the at least one opening. The cutting guide insert may be radiopaque. Additionally, the main body may have at least one alignment slot formed in the main body that is configured to allow the precision cutting guide to be aligned with the foot of the patient. Similarly, the main body may have at least one notch formed along the perimeter of the main body for aligning the main body relative to the foot of the patient. The main body may also have at least one curved edge formed in the body. The curved edge may be used as a guide for a physician to make a curvilinear incision. Further still, the guide may include a targeting knob that extends from the main body. At least one hole may be formed in the targeting knob. For instance, the targeting knob may have a center targeting hold, as well as at least one additional adjustment holes located proximate to the center targeting hole. Additionally, the guide may include a guide tube slot that is formed in the main body that is substantially perpendicular to the cutting slot.

[0008] According to another aspect of the present invention, a method of performing a medical procedure is provided. The method may include the steps of aligning a precision cutting guide relative to the foot of the patient, securing the precision cutting guide relative to the foot, making an incision in the foot along an edge of the main body, inserting at least one retractor into the incision, cutting a portion of a bone into a first bone piece and a second bone piece, adjusting the location of the first bone piece relative to the second bone piece, and securing the first bone piece to the second bone piece. Additionally, the method includes the steps of drawing a first line along a centerline of a first metatarsal of the foot, drawing a second line substantially perpendicular to the first line, aligning at least one of the first line and the second line with at least one slot or notch. Further still, the method may include the step of tightening at least one adjustment screw that is rotatably attached to the main body to secure the main body to the foot. Further still, the method may include the steps of securing a targeting guide to the main body and inserting at least one guide wire through the targeting guide, the main body, and into a first metatarsal of the foot. Additionally, the method may include

the steps of rotating the main body about the at least one guide wire from a first position to a second position and cutting an incision in the foot about the at least one edge. Thereafter, at least one retractor may be inserted into the incision, after which the main body may be rotated about the at least one guide wire from the second position back to the first position. Next, a screw guide may be inserted into a guide tube slot formed in the main body, after which a guide wire may be inserted through the screw guide. Thereafter, the first metatarsal of the patient's foot can be cut through a cutting guide slot formed in the main body to create a first bone piece and a second bone piece. After that, the first bone piece may be adjusted relative to the second bone piece, a hole can be drilled into the bone using the guide wire as a guide, and an implant can be screwed in to secure the first bone piece to the second bone piece. Next, any remaining guide wires can be removed, and the incision can be closed. Furthermore, x-rays or other visual scans may be taken at any point during the procedure to ensure appropriate location of the various components. The desired method creates a step-by-step surgical procedure that helps to ensure the osteotomy and implant are in the correct location for a high success outcome.

[0009] According to another aspect of the present invention, a kit may be provided. The surgical kit provides a receptacle for holding the different components of the minimally invasive surgical system and keeps each component secure and sterile until the time of surgery. The kit may include a precision cutting guide, at least one screw rotatably connected to the precision cutting guide, at least one guide wire, and an implant configured to secure two pieces of bone together. The kit may also include a targeting guide that is configured to be releasably secured to the main body about a targeting knob having a plurality of openings formed therein. The kit may also include at least one retractor configured to retract soft tissue in the foot. Further still, the kit may include a screw guide that is configured to be inserted into a guide tube slot formed in the main body. Further yet, the kit may include a scalpel, a screwdriver, and a drill bit. Each of the screwdriver, drill bit, and screw guard may have a cannula formed therein dimensioned to accommodate the at least one guide wire. The kit may consist of single-use instruments and all necessary implants required to perform a surgical correction of mild to moderate hallux valgus, or similar surgical procedure.

[0010] According to another aspect, the invention includes each of the following plus their combination: a precision cutting guide, a targeting guide, a screw guide, a screwdriver, one or more orthopedic implants, a drill bit with countersink, one or more tissue retractors, one or more guide wires, and a kit or kits for maintaining the sterility of the components.

[0011] The precision cutting guide is designed to conform to the anatomy of a patient. It provides a guide for a physician to create an osteotomy by guiding a bone saw blade to the proper location and at the proper angles. The precision cutting guide has numerous alignment features such as holes and notches to assist the physician with positioning the guide in the proper location for a successful osteotomy of bone. The precision cutting guide also has a guide tube slot that allows the physician to direct a guide wire directly to the location needed for proper fixation.

[0012] The targeting guide is designed to help align the precision cutting guide such that is positioned properly over

a bone under the skin. The targeting guide fits over the precision cutting guide, such that the targeting guide is perpendicular to the cutting slot on the precision cutting guide. The targeting guide features a pointer that can be directed at a specific anatomic location to assist the physician. The screw guide allows the physician to determine the correct length of implant to use for fixation, and then guide an implant into the correct spot to fixate two bones. The screwdriver is cable of fitting over the guide wire while driving an implant into bone.

[0013] The orthopedic implant can consist of different types of fixation implants, such as a bone screw, bone pin, surgical staple, or orthopedic plate with screws. In this system, the orthopedic implant consists of a cannulated orthopedic screw. The precision cutting guide provides a mechanism for targeting the location of the orthopedic implant, such that the physician can rely on proper placement of the implant with no unnecessary soft tissue dissection.

[0014] The drill bit with countersink permits drilling of a pilot hole for the implant, as well cutting flutes to create a countersink area in bone so that the implant does not project above the surface after installation. The tissue retractors are designed to restrain soft tissue while making the osteotomy and allow access to bone. One or more guide wires can be smooth-shafted or threaded and can have one end pointed or both ends pointed. The purpose of the guide wires is to anchor the precision cutting guide to the patient's anatomy with minimal soft tissue disruption, so that an osteotomy can be created, and the implant targeted to the proper location.

[0015] The combination of the kit and a surgical technique that results in minimal tissue disruption (also referred to as minimally invasive) and highly reproducible and accurate correction to the hallux valgus condition. The reduces the chance of complications, scarring and pain. A minimally invasive precision surgical cutting guide instrument that has the following features: the main body is clear, so that physicians can see the underlying bone and tissue; the radiopaque cutting guide insert allows the physician to see the exact location where a bone osteotomy, or corrective cut in bone, will occur; precise alignment features that ensure the osteotomy is performed in the correct location, the osteotomy is centered on the bone, and a fixation implant can be directed to the proper location; adjustment holes that allow the physician to reposition the cutting guide without drilling additional guide wires into bone; a targeting guide instrument that ensures the osteotomy is perpendicular to the metatarsal bone that is being surgically corrected. The present invention may be is unique to foot and ankle surgery, or it similarly could be used for other surgical procedures.

[0016] These, and other aspects and objects of the present invention will be better appreciated and understood when considered in conjunction with the following description and the accompanying drawings. It should be understood, however, that the following description, while indicating preferred embodiments of the present invention, is given by way of illustration and not of limitation. Many changes and modifications may be made within the scope of the present invention without departing from the spirit thereof, and the invention includes all such modifications.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

[0017] A clear conception of the advantages and features constituting the present invention, and of the construction

and operation of typical mechanisms provided with the present invention, will become more readily apparent by referring to the exemplary, and therefore non-limiting, embodiments illustrated in the drawings accompanying and forming a part of this specification, wherein like reference numerals designate the same elements in the several views, and in which:

[0018] FIG. 1 is an isometric perspective view of an orthopedic implant.

[0019] FIG. 2 is a side elevation view of the orthopedic implant of FIG. 1.

[0020] FIG. 3 is an end elevation view of the orthopedic implant of FIGS. 1 and 2.

[0021] FIG. 4 is an isometric perspective view of a precision cutting guide.

[0022] FIG. 5 is a side elevation view of the precision cutting guide of FIG. 4.

[0023] FIG. 6 is an end elevation view of the precision cutting guide of FIGS. 4 and 5.

[0024] FIG. 7 is an isometric perspective view of an alignment screw.

[0025] FIG. 8 is an isometric perspective view of the precision cutting guide assembly with alignment screws in place.

[0026] FIG. 9 is an isometric perspective view of a screw-driver with an exploded view of a tip.

[0027] FIG. 10 is an isometric perspective view of a drill bit.

[0028] FIG. 11 is a side elevation view of the drill bit of FIG. 10.

[0029] FIG. 12 is an isometric perspective view of a screw guide.

[0030] FIG. 13A is an isometric perspective view of a targeting guide.

[0031] FIG. 13B is a different isometric perspective view of the targeting guide of FIG. 13A.

[0032] FIG. 14 is a side elevation view of the targeting guide of FIGS. 13A and 13B.

[0033] FIG. 15 is an end elevation view of the targeting guide of FIGS. 13A-14.

[0034] FIG. 16 is an isometric perspective view of a small tissue retractor.

[0035] FIG. 17 is an isometric perspective view of a large tissue retractor.

[0036] FIG. 18 is an isometric perspective view of a guide wire with an exploded view of a guide wire tip.

[0037] FIG. 19 is a side elevation view of a foot with a line marked on the skin.

[0038] FIG. 20 is a side elevation view of the foot with two lines marked on the skin.

[0039] FIG. 21 is a side elevation view of the foot with the precision cutting guide positioned on the skin.

[0040] FIG. 22 is an isometric perspective view of the foot with the precision cutting guide and targeting guide in position.

[0041] FIG. 23 is an isometric perspective view of the foot with the precision cutting guide attached to the foot with a guide wire.

[0042] FIG. 24 is an isometric perspective view of the foot with the precision cutting guide rotated into a vertical position.

[0043] FIG. 25 is an isometric perspective view of the foot with retractors in position.

[0044] FIG. 26 is an isometric perspective view of the foot with the precision cutting guide rotated to horizontal position and the retractors in position.

[0045] FIG. 27 is an isometric perspective view of the foot with the precision cutting guide in a horizontal position and multiple guide wires installed.

[0046] FIG. 28 is an isometric perspective view of the foot with a screw guide inserted into the precision cutting guide.

[0047] FIG. 29A is an isometric perspective view of a foot with osteotomy created in a bone.

[0048] FIG. 29B is an isometric perspective cutaway view of a foot with osteotomy created in a bone with the components within the foot shown in phantom. FIG. 30 is a top plan view of a foot with the deformity corrected with the components within the foot shown in phantom.

[0049] FIG. 31 is a side elevation view of a foot with the deformity corrected and hole being drilled with the components within the foot shown in phantom.

[0050] FIG. 32 is a side elevation view of a foot with implant placed to fixate bones with the components within the foot shown in phantom.

[0051] FIG. 33A is a side elevation view of a foot with deformity corrected after surgery with the components within the foot shown in phantom.

[0052] FIG. 33B is a top plan view of a foot with deformity corrected after surgery with the components within the foot shown in phantom.

[0053] FIG. 34 is an isometric perspective view of a kit.

[0054] In describing the preferred embodiment of the invention which is illustrated in the drawings, specific terminology will be resorted to for the sake of clarity. However, it is not intended that the invention be limited to the specific terms so selected and it is to be understood that each specific term includes all technical equivalents which operate in a similar manner to accomplish a similar purpose. For example, the word connected, attached, or terms similar thereto are often used. They are not limited to direct connection but include connection through other elements where such connection is recognized as being equivalent by those skilled in the art.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF PREFERRED EMBODIMENTS

[0055] The present invention and the various features and advantageous details thereof are explained more fully with reference to the non-limiting embodiments described in detail in the following description. Initially, a variety of tools will be described, after which use of the tools together will be described to perform the desired medical procedure. Preferably, the described system can be used to streamline and simplify minimally invasive surgical procedures. Additionally, the described system preferably results in better cosmetic results, such as less scarring, decreased trauma to the soft tissues, less damage to blood supply, faster healing, less time in the operating room for the patient and physicians, less post-operative pain, swelling, and complications, and/or quicker recovery time and earlier return to activities. While the description below will primarily be in relation to surgical procedures designed to correct issues relating to hallux valgus/bunions, the present invention could similarly be used to correct other issues in a patient's feet, ankles, and elsewhere on the body.

[0056] FIGS. 1-3 are perspective, side view, and end views respectively, of an orthopedic implant 100 suitable for

fixating two bones after an osteotomy and corrective surgery. In one embodiment of the present invention, the implant **100** consists of a cannulated orthopedic screw. The illustrated implant **100** consists of a shaft **105**, a head **110**, upper threads **115**, and distal threads **120**. The implant **100** can be manufactured of metal, plastic, or any other suitable material depending on the objectives of the designer and the purpose of use of the implant **100**. The shaft **105** has an inner cannula **130** that extends from the head **110** to the cutting tip **121** along the entire length of the implant **100**. The diameter of the cannula **130** is sized such that a guide wire **650**, described below, passes through the cannula **130**. The head **110** contains upper threads **115**, which anchor in one bone requiring fixation. The distal threads **120** anchors in a second bone to create fixation. The thread pitch and diameter of the upper threads **115** and the distal threaded section **120** can be different, such that a compressive force is created between two bones upon the use of the implant **100**. The distal threads **120** contain a cutting tip **121**, which can self-cut threads into a bone as the implant **100** is screwed into place. The distal threads **120** also contain reverse cutting threads **122**, which allow the implant **100** to be removed from bone if desired. The head **110** also contains a screwdriver receptacle **140**. The receptacle **140** is shown in the preferred embodiment to receive a Torx head screwdriver, however any design for mating with a screwdriver could suffice. Although the implant is shown as a screw, other implants may be used to achieve the same goal, including pins, staples, plates, and any other fastener mechanism known to those having ordinary skill in the art. Additionally, the implant **100** may be a similar screw as shown, but having different lengths depending on the size and shape of the patient's foot.

[0057] Next, FIGS. 4-6 are perspective, side view, and end views respectively, of one embodiment of a precision cutting guide **200**. The precision cutting guide **200** is shown designed for the left foot of a patient, but all description below applies for a right foot where a mirror image version of guide **200** would be used. The precision cutting guide **200** consists of a main body **205**, which conforms to the anatomy of the left foot. In this embodiment, the shape of the main body **205** is curved in multiple planes to best conform to the soft tissue surrounding a patient's first metatarsal. The main body **205** can be made of plastic, metal, or any other suitable material depending on a number of factors, including whether the precision cutting guide **200** is intended to be disposable, or reusable, the desire of the user, and the like. Biocompatible ink can be used on the main body **205** to highlight measurements or features to a surgeon. For example, the letter "L" signifying left foot could be printed on the precision cutting guide **200**.

[0058] The main body **205** has an insert situated in it. For instance, a cutting guide insert **206** is embedded in a cavity in the main body **205**. In this embodiment, the cutting guide insert **206** is over molded into the main body **205**, but any means of attachment would suffice. For example, the cutting guide insert **206** could be glued, press fit, welded, or attached in another way to main body **205**. The cutting guide insert **206** can be made from a different material than main body **205**, or it could be made of the same material. In this embodiment, the main body **205** is made from conventional injection molded plastic, whereas cutting guide insert **206** is made from radiopaque injection molded plastic. In this way, when a physician uses the precision guide **200**, the cutting

guide insert **206** is visible in fluoroscopy. A cutting slot **207** is a chevron-shaped (V-shaped) pathway that permits an orthopedic cutting instrument, such as saw or bur, to make a cut in bone. Of course, the cutting slot **207** could take any number of different shapes depending on thus surgical procedure being performed, and the preferences of the physician. When the precision cutting guide **200** is positioned on a patient's foot, and fluoroscopy is used, the cutting slot **207** would be easily visible in the center of the radiopaque cutting guide insert **206**, ensuring that a physician user would cut bone in the correct spot.

[0059] The precision cutting guide **200** includes several alignment features. First, an alignment slot **210** is a straight slot in the main body **205** that allows viewing of tissue under the precision cutting guide **200**. An upper alignment notch **216** and horizontal notches **217** and **218** are notches on the perimeter of the main body **205** that can be used by a physician to align the precision cutting guide **200** properly on a patient's foot as will further be described below. A line drawn through horizontal notches **217** and **218** would pass through alignment slot **210**.

[0060] The precision cutting guide **200** also has two lower notches **215** and **219**, and an edge **209**, located on the bottom perimeter of the precision cutting guide **200**. The edge **209** is a surface that a physician can use to guide a scalpel or cutting device precisely along a curvilinear path. Of course, the edge **209** could similarly be a straight edge or an edge having a different curvilinear path. The curvilinear perimeter distance between the two lower notches **215**, **219** along edge **209** can be a known distance. In this embodiment, that distance between the two lower notches **215**, **219** tracing along edge **209** is one centimeter. In this way, these three features, **215**, **219**, and **209** allow the physician to create a one-centimeter guided curvilinear tissue incision with a scalpel.

[0061] The precision cutting guide **200** has multiple threaded locations for alignment screws. First, an upper alignment hole **240** is a threaded hole in the main body **205** for accepting an alignment screw **300**. Similarly, a lower alignment hole **241** is a threaded hole in the main body **205**, for accepting another alignment screw **300**. Any number of alignment screws can be used, but in this embodiment only two are needed. Alignment holes **240** and **241** are positioned on main body **205** such that they are not coplanar, allowing for better stabilization when the alignment screws **300** are inserted into the holes **240** and **241**.

[0062] The precision cutting guide **200** may also have a guide tube slot **250** that is situated on the main body **205** that is designed such that a screw guide **450** fits into the guide tube slot **250** and can be moved from side to side. This allows the screw guide **450** to be aimed at a precise location by the physician.

[0063] Further still, the precision cutting guide **200** may also include a targeting knob **227** that extends from the main body **205**. The targeting knob **227** is designed such that a targeting guide **500** described below will snugly fit over targeting knob **227** and be secured thereto. The end of targeting knob **227** contains numerous holes. For instance, as shown a center targeting hole **235** has a diameter large enough for a guide wire **650**. Additional adjustment holes **230** may be formed in the targeting knob **227** that surround the center targeting hole **235**. There can be any number of adjustment holes **230**, but in this embodiment eight adjustment holes are shown. The diameter of each adjustment hole

230 is large enough for a guide wire **650**. The center point of each of the adjustment holes **230** is a known distance from center targeting hole **235**. For example, the center point of each adjustment hole **230** could be 1 mm from center targeting hole **235** if desired by the designer. The adjustment holes **230** allow a physician to reposition the precision targeting guide **200** in small incremental amounts to achieve proper positioning of the precision targeting guide on the patient's foot without redrilling guide wire **650**. This adjustment process will be described in more detail below.

[0064] Moving on, FIG. 7 shows one embodiment of a potential alignment screw **300**. The alignment screw **300** can be made of any number of materials, but in this embodiment was designed to be injection-molded plastic. The screw **300** consists of an alignment screw head **310**, an alignment screw cannula **320**, alignment screw threads **315**, and an alignment screw tip **325**. The alignment screw head **310** includes flanges **312** such that it can be easily inserted and tightened by a physician. The alignment screw **300** is cannulated from head **310** to tip **325**. The diameter of the cannula **320** is such that it will fit over a guide wire **650**. The alignment screw threads **315** can be of any pitch and diameter, but in this embodiment the threads **315** show a coarse thread pattern that advances a large distance for each turn of alignment screw head **310**. In addition, the alignment screw threads **315** mate with the threads in the upper and lower alignment holes **240**, **241** of the precision cutting guide **200**. The alignment screw tip **325** is blunt with no sharp edges and designed to contact soft tissue without damaging soft tissue.

[0065] FIG. 8 is an illustration of an assembly consisting of the precision cutting guide **200** and two alignment screws **300**. The alignment screw threads **315** are engaged with the alignment holes **240**, **241** of precision cutting guide **200**. This assembly can be placed on a patient's foot and both alignment screws **300** tightened until they contact soft tissue and stabilize the precision cutting guide **200** relative to the patient's foot.

[0066] A screwdriver **350** used with present invention is shown in FIG. 9. The screwdriver **350** consists of two pieces: a screwdriver shaft **360** and a screwdriver handle **370**. In the illustrated embodiment, the screwdriver shaft **360** can be made of metal and over molded with a plastic screwdriver handle **370**. However, one familiar with the art can see that screwdriver **350** can be a single piece, of any suitable material, if desired, or a multiple piece screwdriver made of any desired material or materials. The screwdriver handle **370** can be a solid block, or it can be partially hollowed to reduce weight. A screwdriver cannula **375** extends from screwdriver tip **380** to the end of handle **370**. The cannula **375** is large enough for a guide wire **650**. The screwdriver tip **380** is designed to mate with screwdriver receptacle **140** on the implant **100**. In this embodiment the screwdriver tip **380** is shown as a Torx design, although any other type of screwdriver tip may be used.

[0067] Additionally, FIGS. 10 and 11 illustrate a drill bit **400**. The drill bit **400** consists of a drill bit body **410**, a drill bit quick connect **420**, and two sets of cutting flutes **425** and **430**. The drill bit **400** is cannulated from end to end with a drill bit cannula **415** having a diameter that is configured to receive a guide wire **650**. The drill bit quick connect **420** is a design that fits common surgical drills and can be whatever shape and design is suitable to be compatible with operating room drills. The cutting flute **425** has a diameter that is suitable for an implant **100** distal threads **120**. The counter-

sink cutting flute **430** has a larger diameter than the cutting flute **425**, and creates an opening for the upper threads **115** on the implant **100**, such that the implant head **110** can be inserted deep enough in a bone such that it does not project above the surface of the bone. The length of fluted area on the drill bit **400** depends on whether the implant **100** contains threads with self-cutting design. In this embodiment, the implant **100** distal threads **120** are self-cutting, and therefore the cutting flute **425** does not need to be as long as the implant **100**.

[0068] Next, FIG. 12 shows a screw guide **450**. The screw guide **450** consists of a tissue protector sleeve **455** and a depth gauge handle **460**. The tissue protector sleeve **455** can be made of any material, but in this embodiment is made from metal. A sleeve tip **456** at the end of the tissue protector sleeve **455** has serrated edges, so that it can grip a patient's bone when used in surgery. A cannula **457** extends through the length of the screw guide **450** and is configured to receive a guide wire **650**. The depth gauge handle **460** can be printed or embossed with depth gauge measurements **465**, which can be used by a physician to determine what length of implant **100** would be needed for a given patient.

[0069] FIGS. 13A, 13B, 14 and 15 illustrate different views of a targeting guide **500**. The targeting guide **500** has a targeting pointer **510**. A targeting guide cannula **512** may extend through a portion of the targeting guide **500**, where the cannula **512** has a diameter that is configured to receive a guide wire **650**. A targeting guide recess **515** may be shaped so that it fits over the targeting knob **227** of the precision cutting guide **200**. When the targeting guide recess **515** is slipped over targeting knob **227**, it causes the targeting pointer **510** to be oriented perpendicularly to the alignment slot **210** and the cutting guide insert **206** on the precision cutting guide **200**. In this embodiment, the targeting guide **500** is made from injection-molded plastic, although it could be made of any other suitable material. The targeting guide **500** can be designed with ribs to improve strength, if desired. In this embodiment, pointer **510** has two ribs along its length. As shown, two ribs **520**, **525** are located on the pointer **510** and designed so that a groove **530** is formed between ribs **520** and **525**. The width of groove **530** is slightly larger than the diameter of a guide wire **650**. In this way, a guide wire **650** can be laid into the groove **530** formed by the ribs **520**, **525** and extend from the targeting pointer **510** to a landmark on the patient's body. The targeting pointer **510** can also be designed such that it comes to a point at the end or left blunt as shown in FIG. 13A.

[0070] FIG. 16 illustrates a short tissue retractor **600**. The retractor **600** consists of a short retractor body **610**, a grip **611**, and a short tissue hook **612**. The purpose of the tissue retractor **600** is to allow the physician user to grab and retract soft tissue around an incision, to expose bone under the tissue. Similarly, FIG. 17 illustrates a long tissue retractor **625**. The retractor **625** is similar in design to short tissue retractor **600**, except that the long tissue hook **632** is longer than the short tissue hook **612**. A long retractor body **630** and a grip **631** make up the body of long tissue retractor **625**.

[0071] Further still, FIG. 18 illustrates a guide wire **650**. As will further be described below, and as shown in the figures, a number of guide wires **650** may be used simultaneously during the medical procedure, although a single guide wire will be described. Of course, guide wires have different sizes and proportions could similarly be used. The guide wire **650** consists of a guide wire shaft **660** and a guide

wire tip **662**. The guide wire shaft **660** is smooth to slide easily in any of the cannula features described in this specification. The guide wire tip **662** can be rounded, pointed, threaded, or be in any number of designs depending on the physician's objective. In the illustrated embodiment, the tip **662** is shown in a trocar design that can cut bone. The guide wire **650** can also have both ends pointed if desired, but in this embodiment the tip **662** is pointed while the opposite end is blunt. The guide wire **650** can have markings, such as a laser etch or ink mark (not shown), that define certain distances on the guide wire **650**. For example, a laser etch on the guide wire **650** could be used in conjunction with depth gauge measurements **465**.

[0072] In addition to all the components described so far, a kit **1200** can be provided. For instance, the kit **1200** could be a sterilizable plastic tray **1210** or any bag, box, container, or the like for holding some or all of the components. For instance, as shown the kit **1200** may include some or all of the components described above, including the implant **100**, the precision cutting guide **200**, one or more alignment screws **300**, the screwdriver **350**, the drill bit **400**, the screw guide **450**, the targeting guide **500**, the short tissue retractor **600**, the long tissue retractor **625**, and one or more guide wires **650**. In other embodiments, the kit may not include all of the tools, for instance, the screwdriver **350**, the drill bit **400**, the screw guide **450** may be excluded since these components may already be present in an operating room. In this way, the kit can be delivered to the operating room in a sterile configuration, ready for surgery. Of course, additional components or tools can also be included in the kit that are not mentioned here, including gauze and other sanitary products, as well as other products used to make incisions and close incisions.

[0073] In addition to the components described above, as well as the kit, the present invention is also directed to a method of performing a medical procedure, such as to correct and fixate a bunion in surgery. FIGS. 19-33B illustrate such a method. Although a summary of the steps is provided below, the method could include some, but not all of the steps outlined below. Furthermore, the method may include some additional steps. Further still, the steps need not necessarily occur in the order they are described.

[0074] The general steps in the method of use are as follows: marking the patient's skin with a line over the midline of the first metatarsal; marking the patient's skin with a second line that is perpendicular to the first line; aligning the precision cutting guide with the marked lines; positioning the targeting guide on the precision cutting guide and aiming the targeting guide towards the fourth metatarsophalangeal joint, or any appropriate anatomic landmark; adjusting the one or more alignment screws on the precision cutting guide until the screws touch skin; inserting at least guide wire through targeting guide and then through the precision cutting guide into the first metatarsal; removing the targeting guide; rotating the precision cutting guide vertically and using the edge of precision cutting guide to dissect skin in an arc; placing large and small retractors in a correct position; rotating the precision cutting guide back into alignment; inserting at least two additional guide wires through the precision cutting guide into bone; inserting the screw guide; inserting a guide wire through the screw guide; creating the osteotomy; removing the precision cutting guide and guide wires that were associated with the precision cutting guide; correcting the deformity; drilling a hole for

the implant over the guidewire; inserting the implant; and removing the remaining guide wire and close incisions. Additional steps may include repositioning the precision cutting guide using adjustment holes if needed, and measuring the screw length using the depth gauge.

[0075] The method of use will further be described with reference to FIGS. 19-33B. In some of these figures, the various bone features contained within the foot **700** are shown using phantom lines. Turning first to FIG. 19, a side elevation view of a patient's left foot **700** with a bunion deformity is shown. The foot **700** contains a first metatarsal **710** and a great toe proximal phalanx **720**. A horizontal line **800** is drawn by a physician on the skin of the foot **700** using a radiopaque or visible surgical marker. The horizontal line **800** is situated on the skin along the centerline of first metatarsal **710**.

[0076] FIG. 20 illustrates a vertical line **810** that is marked on the skin of the foot **700** by a physician, where the vertical line **810** is perpendicular to the horizontal line **800**. The vertical line **810** should cross line **800** as desired by the physician, such that an osteotomy can be created on first metatarsal **710** in the proper location.

[0077] Next, FIG. 21 shows the foot **700** having the precision cutting guide **200** positioned above the skin. In this figure, the two alignment screws **300** have already been installed to the alignment holes **240**, **241** of the cutting guide **200**. The horizontal notches **217**, **218** are positioned in line with the horizontal line **800**. Additionally, the upper alignment notch **216** is positioned over the vertical line **810**. The horizontal line **800** is visible through alignment slot **210**.

[0078] FIG. 22 illustrates the foot **700** with the precision cutting guide **200** positioned properly on the foot **700** and the targeting guide **500** positioned over the precision cutting guide **200**. The targeting guide recess **515** is positioned over the targeting knob **227** to form a snug and secure fit. A guide wire **650** is positioned in the groove **530** and aimed at an anatomic landmark to assist the physician in ensuring that the precision cutting guide **200** is properly positioned for the surgical procedure. In this embodiment, the targeting guide **500** and the guide **650** are positioned to aim towards the 4th metatarsophalangeal joint of the patient. The alignment screws **300** are adjusted by the physician to touch the skin of foot **700**, which helps stabilize the precision cutting guide **200**.

[0079] Next, FIG. 23 shows the foot **700** with the precision cutting guide **200** in the proper position. In this figure, the alignment screws **300** have been tightened until they touch the skin of the foot **700**, and the targeting guide **500** is positioned properly. A guide wire **650** is then inserted through the targeting guide cannula **512** and then through the center targeting hole **235**, and then through the skin and into the first metatarsal **710**. If desired, the physician can use fluoroscopy to confirm whether the cutting guide slot **207** is at the proper location for the surgical procedure. In this embodiment, the cutting guide insert **206** is radiopaque, causing the cutting guide slot **207** to be easily identified by the physician in fluoroscopy. If necessary, the physician can now use the adjustment holes **230** to further refine the position of the precision cutting guide **200**, without the need to drill additional holes in the first metatarsal **710**. Usually, the physician would want to position the cutting guide slot **207** so that it is vertically centered in the first metatarsal **710**. By removing the targeting guide **500**, the physician can move the precision cutting guide **200** such that the guide

wire 650 passes through the desired adjustment hole 230, which has the effect of moving the cutting guide slot 207 relative to the first metatarsal 710. In this embodiment, the eight adjustment holes 230 permit vertical, horizontal, and diagonal repositioning of precision cutting guide 200.

[0080] Looking next to FIG. 24, the precision cutting guide 200 is rotated approximately 90 degrees relative to the foot 700 about the guide wire 650. The targeting guide 500 has been removed and is no longer needed in this method of surgery. In this vertical position, the utility of the edge 209 is revealed. The physician can now use a scalpel or cutting tool to make a tissue incision 1000 in the foot 700 along the curvilinear path of the edge 209. Of course, where the edge 209 is a straight edge or an edge having a different curvilinear path, the incision would mirror the shape and length of the edge 209. The physician can start at either lower notch 215 or 219, and proceed to the other notch, thus creating a curved incision at the proper location with a known length. In this embodiment, the length of the incision would be 1 centimeter, because that is the curvilinear distance along the edge 209 between notches 215 and 219. Of course, the length of the incision could vary based on any number of factors.

[0081] Next, the retractors 600, 625 are used. More specifically, FIG. 25 illustrates the foot 700 with the retractors 600, 625 in position to retract soft tissue away from the first metatarsal 710 underneath. Either retractor 600, 625 can be used, or both, as desired by the physician. The guide wire 650 is shown in the center targeting hole 235, however as noted previously, the physician can use any of the adjustment holes 230 to allow more precise positioning of the precision cutting guide 200.

[0082] FIG. 26 show the foot 700 with the retractors 600, 625 in position on soft tissue, after the precision cutting guide 200 has been rotated back to the horizontal position and over the retractors 600, 625. The precision cutting guide 200 is realigned with the horizontal line 800 such that the line 800 is visible in the alignment slot 210. Due to the design of the precision cutting guide 200, the tissue incision 1000 made by cutting tissue along the edge 209 will now fall directly under the cutting guide slot 207. The physician now has access to the first metatarsal 710 through the cutting guide slot 207.

[0083] Next, FIG. 27 illustrates the precision cutting guide 200 in position on the foot 700, with the cutting guide slot 207 positioned over the skin incision 1000. The physician can anchor the precision cutting guide 200 with additional guide wires if desired. For instance, guide wires 650 are shown passing through the cannula 320 of both alignment screws 300, into the upper and lower alignment holes 240, 241 of the precision cutting guide 200, and then continuing through skin until the guide wires 650 reach the first metatarsal 710. There are three guide wires 650 shown anchoring the precision cutting guide 200 to the first metatarsal 710. In this embodiment, the three guide wires 650 anchored into the first metatarsal 710, and the two alignment screws 300 pressing against skin, plus the shape and contour of the precision cutting guide 200, all combine to create a stable and secure attachment to the foot 700 in preparation for an osteotomy.

[0084] FIG. 28 illustrates the next step in the surgical procedure, in which the screw guide 450 has been inserted into the guide tube slot 250. Tissue protector sleeve 455 is designed such that it can move side to side within guide tube

slot 250. An additional guide wire 650 has been inserted into the screw guide 450, and passes through the skin of the foot 700 into the first metatarsal 710. The physician can use fluoroscopy if desired to ensure the guide wire 650 is in the proper location of the first metatarsal 710, and the physician can reorient the tissue protector sleeve 455 in the guide tube slot 250, if needed. The physician can then use the depth gauge measurements 465 to determine the length of implant needed for surgery.

[0085] FIG. 29A shows the guide wire 650 associated with the guide tube slot 250 partially removed so that the guide wire 650 is no longer underneath the cutting guide slot 207. In addition, the screw guide 450 has been removed. The physician can now use a cutting instrument such as bone saw 1100, cutting bur, scalpel or other instrument to pass through the cutting guide slot 207, through the skin incision into first metatarsal 710, and create an osteotomy in the first metatarsal 710. The first metatarsal 710 now is separated such that first metatarsal fragment 711 is detached from the remainder of first metatarsal 710. FIG. 29B is a cutaway view without the components other than the guide wires 650 to better show what is occurring to the first metatarsal 710. The bone saw 1100 is intersecting the first metatarsal 710 such that it creates the osteotomy 1050. Although the osteotomy 1050 appears as a polygon in FIG. 29B, it is the extension of bone saw 1100 making a V-shaped cut through cylindrical and curved first metatarsal 710 based on the shape of the cutting guide slot 207.

[0086] FIG. 30 is a top plan view of the foot 700 after the physician has corrected the deformity by using the osteotomy to realign first metatarsal fragment 711 in the desired position, where the various bone components are shown in phantom, without the components other than the various guide wires 650 to better show what is occurring.

[0087] FIG. 31 shows the foot 700 with a hole being drilled for an implant. Here, the guide wire 650 has been reinserted into first metatarsal fragment 710. The drill bit 400 is placed over the guide wire 650 and a hole is drill in first metatarsal 710. The design of drill bit 400 creates a hole in first metatarsal 710 for implant 100 as well as countersink area for implant head 110.

[0088] FIG. 32 illustrates the foot 700 where the implant 100 is fixates the first metatarsal 710 to first metatarsal fragment 711, after the deformity has been corrected. The cannulated screwdriver 350 is used to drive the implant 100 to the proper location in the bone. The upper threads 115 are situated in the first metatarsal 710 and the distal threads 120 are situated in the first metatarsal fragment 711, which allows the head 110 to create compression between the two bones 710 and 711.

[0089] Finally, FIGS. 33A and 33B illustrate side elevation and top plan views of the foot 700 with all surgical instruments removed, after the incision has been closed, and the deformity has been corrected.

[0090] Although the best mode contemplated by the inventors of carrying out the present invention is disclosed above, practice of the present invention is not limited thereto. It will be manifest that various additions, modifications and rearrangements of the features of the present invention may be made without deviating from the spirit and scope of the underlying inventive concept. For example, any of the specific aspects of any of the described embodiments could similarly be used with any of the other embodiments. Furthermore, while specific materials have been described,

it should be known that any materials could be used to create any of the described drapes. For instance, materials may be chosen based on any number of criteria, including costs, availability, and various sterility properties. Moreover, as described above, the individual components need not be formed in the disclosed shapes, or assembled in the disclosed configuration, but could be provided in virtually any shape, and assembled in virtually any configuration. Further, any of the components can be manufactured with one another or be separately manufactured and later assembled. Furthermore, all the disclosed features of each disclosed embodiment can be combined with, or substituted for, the disclosed features of every other disclosed embodiment except where such features are mutually exclusive. Figures are not to scale, and some features are exaggerated to show details of particular features or method steps. Further still, some of the tools described above may be reusable, while others may be disposable.

[0091] It is intended that the appended claims cover all such additions, modifications and rearrangements. Expedient embodiments of the present invention are differentiated by the appended claims.

What is claimed is:

1. A method of performing a medical procedure using a cutting guide system comprising the steps of:
 - inserting a guide wire into a bone;
 - aligning a cutting guide relative to a foot of a patient about the guide wire, the cutting guide comprising:
 - a main body having a first side end, a second side end, and an axis extending from the first side end to the second side end;
 - a plurality of opening formed therein; and
 - at least one edge;
 - cutting a portion of a bone through the cutting guide into a first bone piece and a second bone piece;
 - adjusting the location of one of the bone piece relative to the other bone piece; and
 - securing the first bone piece to the second bone piece.
2. The method of claim 1, further comprising the steps of aligning a chevron-shaped cutting slot of the cutting guide with a portion of a first metatarsal; and
 - cutting the first metatarsal through the chevron-shaped cutting slot.
3. The method of claim 1, further comprising the steps of: temporarily securing a targeting guide to the main body; and
 - inserting at least one guide wire through the targeting guide and into a first metatarsal of the foot.
4. The method of claim 1, further comprising the steps of: inserting a screw guide into a guide tube slot formed in the main body;
 - inserting a guide wire through the screw guide; and
 - inserting the guide wire through a drill bit cannula formed in a drill bit.
5. The method of claim 4, further comprising the steps of: cutting through a cutting guide slot formed in the main body and through the first metatarsal to create a first bone piece and a second bone piece;
 - adjusting one bone piece relative to the other bone piece; and
 - screwing an implant to secure the first bone piece to the second bone piece.

6. The method of claim 5, further comprising the steps of: removing any remaining guide wires; and closing the incision.

7. The method of claim 1, further comprising the steps of: temporarily securing the cutting guide in a first position where the axis extends substantially parallel with a first metatarsal; and
 - rotating the cutting guide to a second position where the axis is substantially perpendicular to the first metatarsal.

8. The method of claim 7, further comprising the step of making an incision along a curved edge formed in the main body when the cutting guide is in the second position.

9. The method of claim 7, further comprising the step of aligning an alignment slot or notch of the main body to place the cutting guide in the first position.

10. The method of claim 1, further comprising the steps of making an incision in the foot along the at least one edge; and
 - inserting at least one retractor into the incision.

11. The method of claim 1, further comprising the step of tightening at least one adjustment screw rotatably attached to the main body to secure the main body to the foot.

12. A cutting guide system for creating an osteotomy comprising:
 - a main body shaped to conform to an outside surface of a foot of a patient, the main body having:
 - a first end;
 - a second end;
 - a length extending from the first end to the second end;
 - an axis extending along the length;
 - a chevron-shaped cutting slot extending through the axis; and
 - at least one opening;
 - a chevron-shaped insert situated about the chevron-shaped cutting slot; and
 - at least one guide wire insertable into the at least one opening.

13. The cutting guide system of claim 12, wherein the main body is rotatable about the at least one guide wire between:
 - a first position where the axis is substantially horizontal; and
 - a second position where the axis is substantially vertical.

14. The cutting guide system of claim 13, wherein in the first position the chevron-shaped cutting slot is substantially superimposed over a first metatarsal.

15. The cutting guide system of claim 13, wherein the main body further comprises at least one curvilinear edge extending along a bottom perimeter of the main body; and wherein the at least one curvilinear edge extends vertically along a first metatarsal in the second position.

16. The cutting guide system of claim 12, further comprising a targeting guide comprising:
 - a body;
 - a targeting guide cannula extending through the body; and
 - a pointer extending from the body.

17. The cutting guide system of claim 12, further comprises a targeting knob extending from the main body, the targeting knob comprising:
 - a center targeting hole; and
 - a plurality of exterior targeting holes surrounding the center targeting hole.

18. A cutting guide system for osteotomy medical procedure comprising:

a cutting guide comprising:

- a main body shaped to conform to an outside surface of a foot;
- a first end;
- a second end;
- at least one alignment notch or slot;
- a plurality of openings formed in the main body; and
- a chevron-shaped cutting guide formed in the main body;

at least one alignment screw rotatably connected to the main body about at least one of the plurality of openings;

at least one guide wire; and

an implant configured to secure two pieces of bone together.

19. The cutting guide system of claim **18**, further comprising:

a targeting guide configured to be releasably secured to the main body about a targeting knob having a plurality of openings formed therein;

at least one retractor configured to retract soft tissue in the foot; and

a screw guide configured to be inserted into a guide tube slot formed in the main body.

20. The cutting guide system of claim **18**, further comprising:

a screwdriver having a cannula formed therein dimensioned to fit the at least one guide wire; and

a drill bit having a cannula formed therein dimensioned to fit the at least one guide wire.

* * * * *