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- [54] **VASCULAR WIRE GUIODE INTRODUCER AND METHOD OF USE**
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- [58] Field of Search **604/164, 53, 158, 168, 604/170, 264, 284, 283, 280**

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[57] **ABSTRACT**

Multi-lumen wire guide introducer and method of in-

serting a wire guide or the like into the introducer prior to positioning the introducer in a vessel of the vascular system of a patient. The multi-lumen wire guide introducer comprises a tubular member formed of a semi-rigid plastic material such as a radiopaque polytetrafluoroethylene with first and second adjacent lumens extending longitudinally therein. In one aspect, the tubular member includes a tapered outer surface extending proximally from the distal end of the member and centered about the first lumen. The second lumen includes an opening in the tapered outer surface of the tubular member for extending a wire guide therefrom and into the blood vessel. In another aspect, the tubular member has proximal and distal portions with a first lumen extending longitudinally therethrough. The proximal portion includes a second lumen extending longitudinally therein and communicating with the first lumen prior to the distal portion. A method for positioning the multi-lumen introducer in the blood vessel of a patient includes the steps of providing and inserting a hollow needle through the first lumen, providing and inserting a wire guide in the second lumen, inserting the needle and tubular member into the blood vessel of a patient, advancing the wire guide from the second lumen into the blood vessel, and removing the needle and tubular member from the blood vessel when the wire guide is in place.

10 Claims, 2 Drawing Sheets

