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(54) **CANNULA WITH PROXIMALLY MOUNTED CAMERA**

(71) Applicant: **Rebound Therapeutics Corporation**, Irvine, CA (US)

(72) Inventors: **Peter G. Davis**, Irvine, CA (US); **Ross Tsukashima**, Irvine, CA (US); **Jeffrey J. Valko**, Irvine, CA (US); **Michael R. Henson**, Irvine, CA (US); **Todd McIntyre**, Irvine, CA (US)

(73) Assignee: **Rebound Therapeutics Corporation**, Irvine, CA (US)

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See application file for complete search history.

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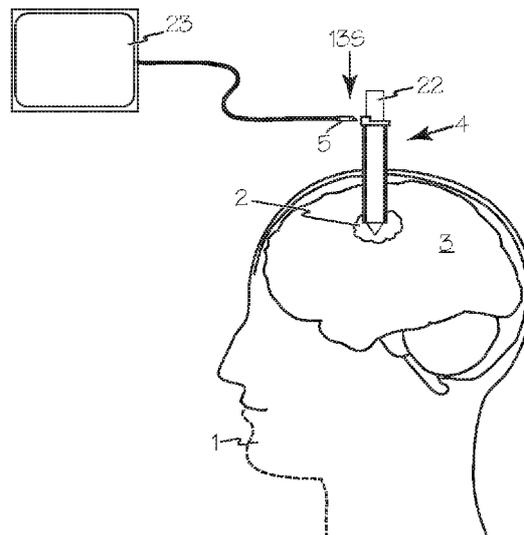
Primary Examiner — Timothy J Neal

(74) *Attorney, Agent, or Firm* — Crockett & Crockett, PC; K. David Crockett, Esq.

(57) **ABSTRACT**

A cannula with a proximally mounted camera provides visualization of the brain during minimally invasive surgery. The device comprises a cannula with a camera mounted on the proximal end of the cannula with a view into the cannula lumen and the surgical field below the lumen. A prism, reflector or other suitable optical element is oriented between the camera and the lumen of the cannula to afford the camera a view into the cannula while minimizing obstruction of the lumen.

2 Claims, 4 Drawing Sheets



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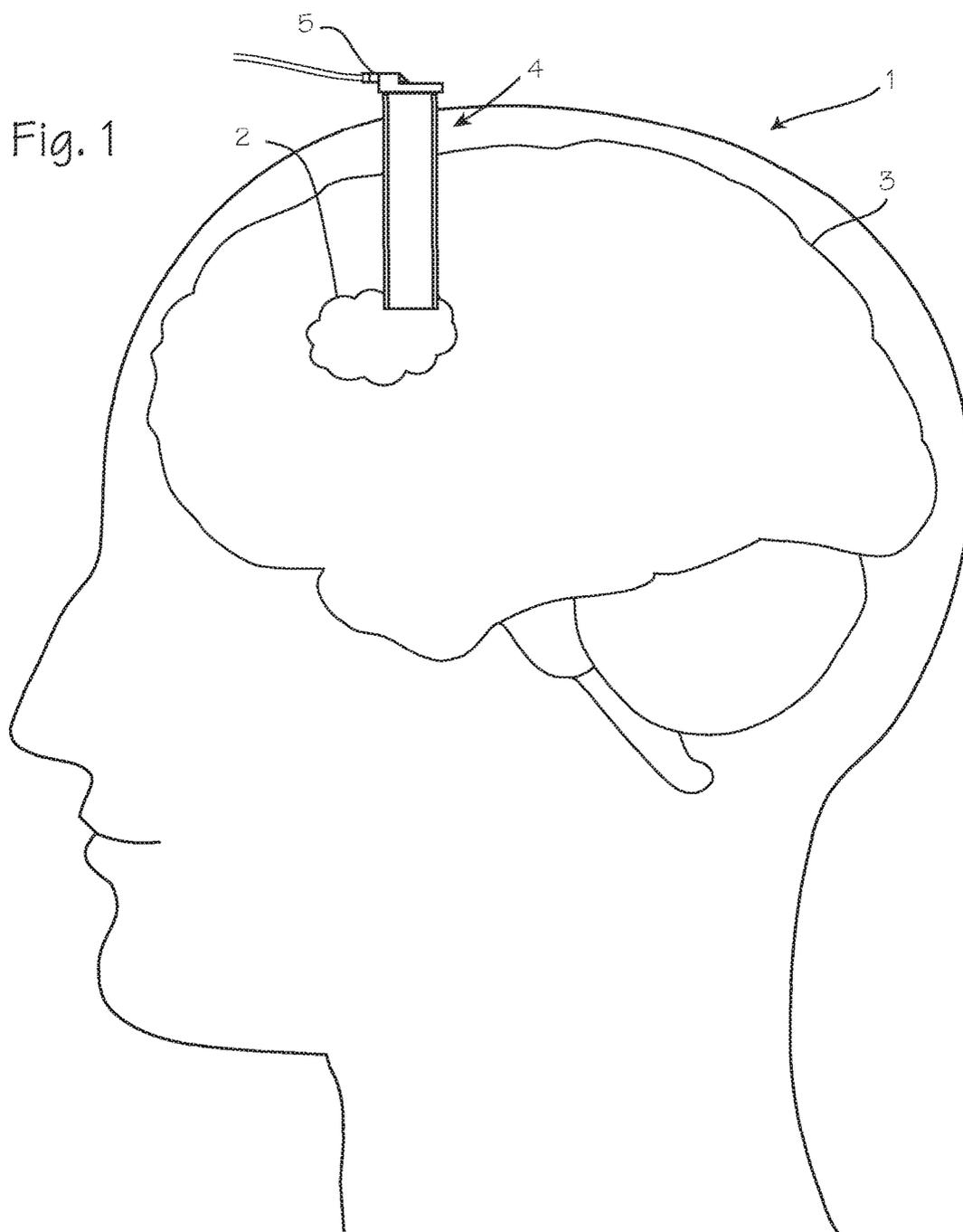
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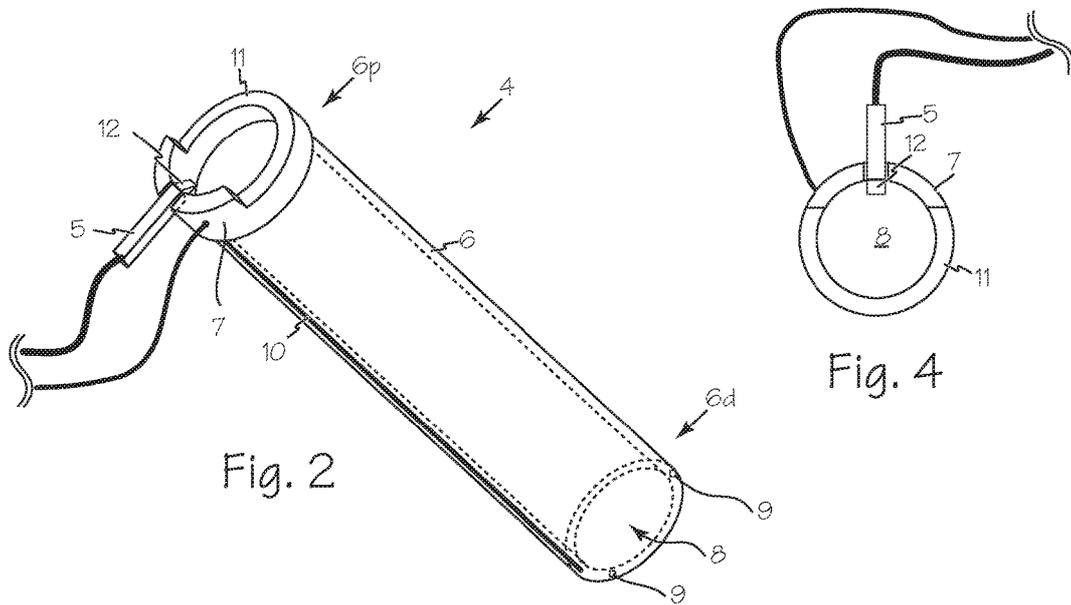


Fig. 3

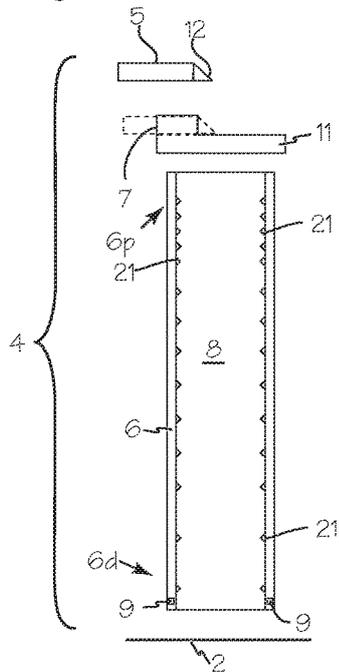


Fig. 5

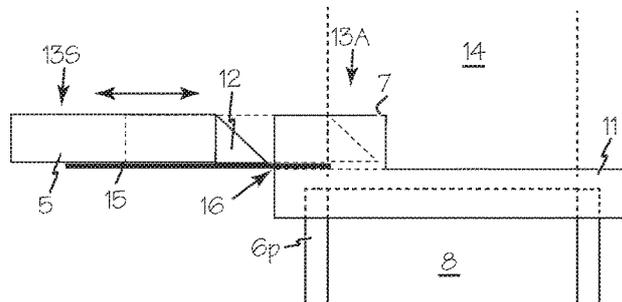
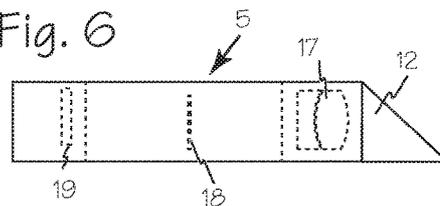


Fig. 6



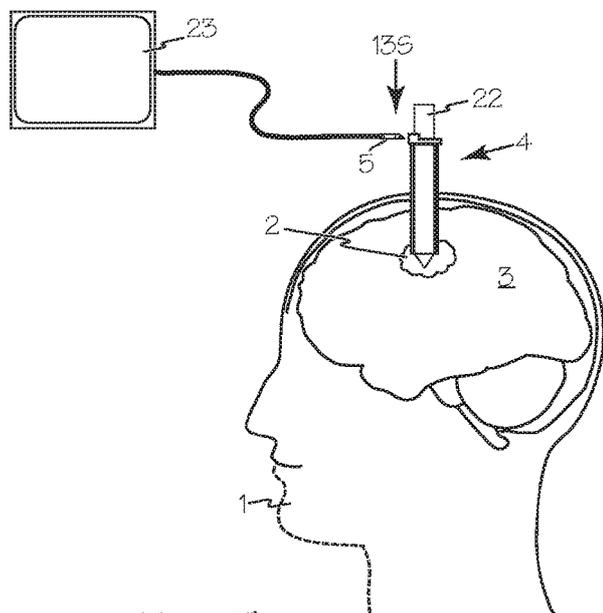


Fig. 7

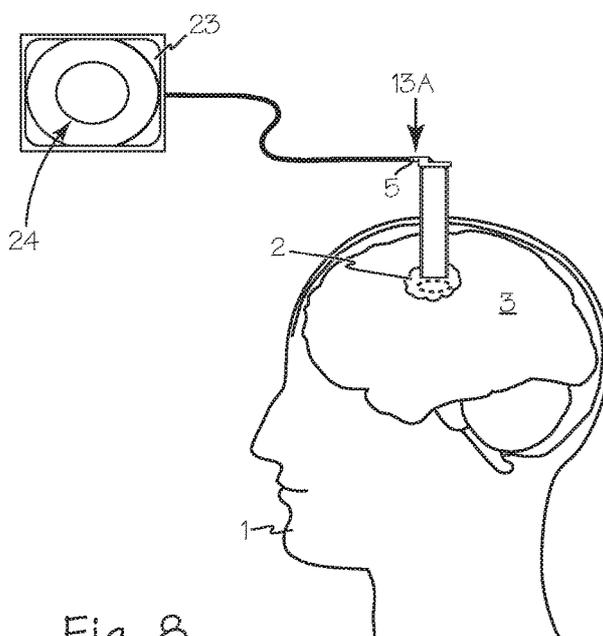


Fig. 8

Fig. 9

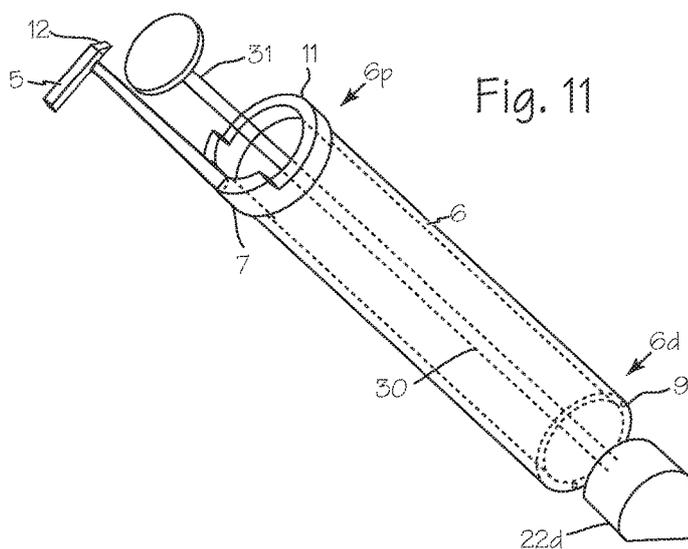
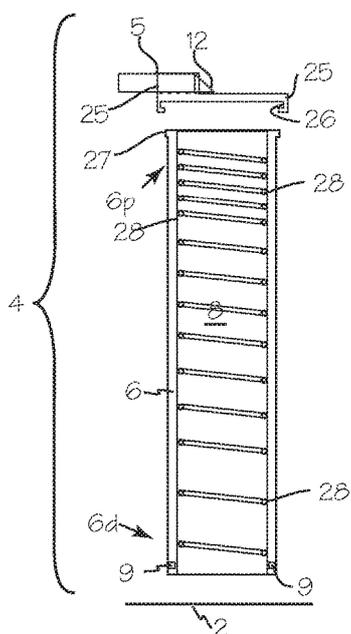


Fig. 11

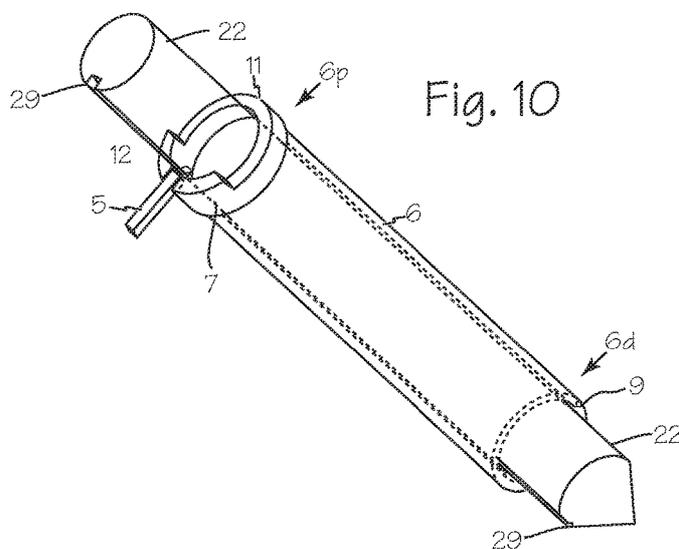


Fig. 10

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CANNULA WITH PROXIMALLY MOUNTED CAMERA

This application claims priority to U.S. Provisional Patent Application 62/206,115 filed Aug. 17, 2015.

FIELD OF THE INVENTIONS

The inventions described below relate to the field of minimally invasive brain surgery.

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTIONS

Stroke is a common cause of death and disabling neurologic disorder. Approximately 700,000 patients suffer from stroke in the United States every year. Hemorrhagic stroke accounts for 20% of the annual stroke population. Hemorrhagic stroke is due to a rupture of a blood vessel in the brain, causing bleeding into the brain tissue and resulting in a hematoma (a blood mass) in the brain. Prompt removal of the blood mass is necessary to limit or prevent long-term brain injury. Clear visualization and imaging of the blood mass and any surrounding surgical field facilitates removal of the blood mass.

SUMMARY

The devices and methods described below provide for improved visualization of the brain during minimally invasive surgery. The device comprises a cannula with a camera mounted on the proximal end of the cannula with a view into the cannula lumen and the tissue within and below the lumen. A prism, reflector or other suitable optical element is oriented between the camera and the lumen of the cannula to afford the camera a view into the cannula while minimizing obstruction of the lumen.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

FIG. 1 illustrates the head of a patient with an area requiring surgical intervention.

FIG. 2 illustrates a cannula with a proximally mounted camera.

FIG. 3 is an exploded side view of a cannula with a proximally mounted camera.

FIG. 4 is a top view of a cannula with a proximally mounted camera.

FIG. 5 is a close-up side view of a cannula light shield with the camera movable on a track.

FIG. 6 is a close-up side view of the camera for a cannula with a proximally mounted camera.

FIG. 7 illustrates the insertion of an obturator and cannula with a proximally mounted camera into a tissue mass in the patient of FIG. 1.

FIG. 8 illustrates the use of a cannula with a proximally mounted camera to perform minimally invasive surgery on the patient of FIG. 1.

FIG. 9 illustrates an additional structure of the cannula which provides for easy attachment and detachment of the camera to the cannula tube.

FIGS. 10 and 11 illustrate the camera and cannula system in which the camera is fixed to the cannula tube, and the obturator is modified to pass the camera even as it encroaches on the space over the lumen of the cannula tube.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE INVENTIONS

FIG. 1 illustrates a patient 1 with a blood mass 2 in the brain 3 that necessitates surgical intervention. A cannula 4

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has been inserted into the brain, with the distal end of the cannula proximate the blood mass. A camera 5 is mounted on the proximal rim of the cannula, with a portion of the camera overhanging the rim of the cannula and disposed over the lumen of the cannula, and is operable to obtain video or still images of the blood mass or other tissue at the distal end of the cannula.

FIG. 2 illustrates the cannula 4 in detail. The cannula comprises a cannula tube 6 with a camera 5 and one or more light sources and a mounting structure 7 secured to the proximal end of the cannula. The camera, shown in more detail in the following figures, includes a prism, a reflector or other mirror structure or optical element, overhanging the lumen 8 of the cannula tube. The light necessary to provide good visualization of the blood mass, and obtain images of the blood mass, may be provided by LED's 9 (or other light source) disposed at the distal end 6d of the cannula tube, at or proximate the distal opening. The LED's may instead be disposed at the proximal end of the cannula tube and the light may be transmitted through optical fibers 10, or, if the cannula is made of a transparent material, the light may be transmitted down the walls of the cannula tube to exit the distal end of the cannula wall to illuminate the blood mass. The ring 11 of the mounting structure 7 serves as a shield to block light from view from a proximal viewpoint, whether the light emanates directly from proximally located lights, or passes through the cannula tube from distally located lights. In embodiments in which the light sources are disposed on the proximal end of the cannula tube, the distal portion 6d of the cannula tube may shaped, molded, machined, treated or otherwise configured to enable the emergence of light from cannula tube 6 to illuminate the surgical field. For example, inner distal surface and or outer distal surface may be sanded or frosted to enable emission of light through the surfaces. Cables for providing power to the camera and light source, and carrying image data from the camera to a display, may be provided, or the device may be powered by batteries disposed on the device and image data can be transmitted wirelessly to a display.

FIG. 3 is an exploded side view of cannula 4 with the camera 5 disposed on the proximal rim of the cannula tube, with a prism 12 overhanging the lumen 8 of the cannula. FIG. 4 illustrates a top view of cannula 4 with a proximally mounted camera 5. FIG. 3 also shows the LEDs 9 disposed on or near the distal end 6P of the cannula tube to emit light into the surgical field (such as blood mass 2).

Preferably, the camera is mounted within the mounting structure so that the prism may be removed from its overhanging position, either by sliding the camera radially, flipping the camera around a pivot, or by removing the camera from the camera mount entirely. FIG. 5 illustrates a sliding attachment of camera 5 to the mounting structure 7 as well as movement of the camera from standby position 13S to use position 13A. With camera 5 in use position 13A, prism 12 extends partially or fully into the cylindrical space 14 defined by and extending from the lumen 8 and affords an unobstructed view of surgical site at the distal opening of the cannula tube, while providing minimal interference to small diameter surgical instruments using lumen 8 to perform surgery (for example, an aspirator or a macerator). Any suitable technique for moveably attaching camera 5 to light shield 7 may be used. For example, the camera may be slidably attached on a track such as track 15, in which case the track 15 secures camera 5 to the light shield and enables the camera/prism assembly to move radially between standby position 13S to use position 13A and back again (that is, from a first position in which the prism extends into

the lumen **8** or the cylindrical space **14** defined by the lumen of the cannula tube, to a second position in which the prism resides outside of lumen **8** or the cylindrical space **14** defined by the lumen of the cannula tube). The camera may also be attached with a pivot at **16**, so that it is rotatably attached to the tube, from a first position in which the axis of the camera is perpendicular to the long axis of the cannula tube to a second position angles from the long axis so that the prism resides outside the cylindrical space **14** defined by the lumen of the cannula tube. The camera may also be releasably attached to the mounting structure (i.e., it may be readily attached and detached by hand, without the use of tools, during a surgical procedure) with a friction fit or detent arrangement between the camera and a channel of the mounting structure.

FIG. **6** is a close-up side view of the camera **5**. The camera **5** comprises the prism **12**, a lens or lenses **17** (which may include an achromatic lens or other doublet), the imaging device **18** and the control system (if provided in the camera component of the system). The lens **17** may be part of an optical assembly that includes additional optical components. The imaging device **18** may be any suitable image sensor such as a CCD sensor or CMOS sensor. The control system **19** may include a controller, data processing components and transmitters such as a controller and a transmitter to control the camera and transmit data from the camera (the data output system may be located off the device). Suitable cables or wireless transmitters may be used to connect the camera to a display system and a power supply. The imaging sensor is characterized by an imaging plane, and the prism is aligned with the imaging plane to direct light directed parallel to the imaging plane toward the imaging plane. As illustrated, the imaging plane is parallel to the long axis of the cannula tube, and the prism disposed along a line perpendicular to the imaging plane, and oriented to direct light from the surgical field at the distal end of the cannula tube onto the imaging plane.

In embodiments in which illumination is provided by lights disposed on the distal end of the cannula tube, any resultant glare and reflections from the inner wall of the cannula tube can be minimized by providing baffles on the interior wall of the tube. The baffles may comprise ridges protruding slightly into the lumen, dispersed along the length of the tube. Preferably, the ridges are more closely spaced toward the proximal end of the tube, and relatively more widely spaced toward the distal end of tube. Several such ridges are illustrated in FIG. **3**, marked as item **21**. The ridges may be provided in any form, and may be integral to the cannula tube **6** (for example, formed during molding) or may be glued or fused onto the inner wall of the tube, or they may comprise turns of a coil, or turns of a braid, inserted into the tube or fused into the inner wall of the tube, and the coil or braid can comprise power or data cables associated with the distally located lights or distally located cameras or sensors.

As shown in FIGS. **7** and **8**, a surgeon inserts the cannula **4** with an obturator **22** into the patient's brain until distal end **6d** of the cannula is sufficiently close to tissue **2** for surgery. The surgeon then removes the obturator **22** so that the cannula **4** can be used to provide access, illumination and visibility for the surgical field. The surgeon then moves camera **5**, shifting, rotating, or moving it, depending on the construction, from a standby position to place the prism over the lumen. If necessary, the surgeon orients the imaging system to obtain a view of the surgical field. With the camera in place, the surgeon operates the camera to obtain an image of the surgical field. Image data from camera **5** is transmitted

to the display **23** to provide image or images **24** of the surgical field obtained through lumen **8**. The image may include still images (photographs) and video. After placement of the camera, the surgeon may pass surgical instruments, or the distal end of surgical instruments, through the lumen of the cannula, while the portion of the camera is disposed within the lumen **8** or the space **14** over the lumen.

FIG. **9** illustrates an additional structure of the cannula **4** which provides for easy attachment and detachment of the camera **5** to the cannula tube **6**. The camera is fixed to the mounting structure **25**, and the mounting structure is releasably attachable to the cannula tube. The mounting structure comprises a ring, similar to mounting structure and ring combination shown in the previous figures (items **7** and **11**) with a groove **26** on the inside of the ring, and the proximal end of the cannula tube includes a flange **27**, sized and dimensioned to fit snugly in the groove of the mounting structure. The mounting structure may be snapped onto the cannula, when desired, to position the camera on the proximal end of the cannula tube, with the prism overhanging the wall of the cannula tube and disposed over the lumen **8**. The mounting structure is releasably attached, in that it may be readily attached and detached by hand, without the use of tools, during a surgical procedure. Other releasable detachment means, including a friction fit between the mounting structure and the outside or inside wall of the cannula tube, or a bayonet mount, screw threads, or a magnetic attachment (with paired magnets in the cannula tube proximal end and in the mounting structure) may be used.

Also, FIG. **9** illustrates an alternative embodiment of the baffles shown in FIG. **3**. In FIG. **9**, the baffles comprise turns of a coil **28**. The baffles may also comprise a braid. The coil or braid can also comprise the electrical wires needed to carry power to the lights disposed on the distal tip of the cannula tube, or a sensor disposed on the distal tip of the cannula tube, and can also comprise data cables needed to transmit data from any such distally mounted sensor to control or display systems associated with the sensors.

FIGS. **10** and **11** illustrate the camera and cannula system in which the camera **5** is fixed (i.e. not releasably attached) to the cannula tube **6**, and the obturator **22** is modified to pass the camera even as it encroaches on the space over the lumen of the cannula tube. In FIG. **10**, the obturator **22** is essentially isodiametric throughout its length, and has a groove **29** extending along its length (the portion disposed within the cannula tube). The groove is sized and dimensioned to accommodate the prism that overhangs the lumen of the cannula tube. With this construction, the obturator can be inserted into the cannula tube, and the assembled cannula and obturator can be pushed into the brain, while the cannula is in place, fixed to the cannula. In FIG. **10**, the obturator **22** comprises a large diameter distal portion **22d**, with an outer diameter approximately the same as the inner diameter of the cannula tube, and a small diameter rod **30** that fits easily within the lumen of the cannula tube. The camera is supported in a pylon or post **31**. The post holds the camera away from the proximal opening of the cannula tube, at a sufficient distance, compared to the length of the large diameter portion **22d** of the obturator, so that the obturator may be tilted or bent in order to insert large diameter portion **22d** of the obturator into the lumen without the need to move the camera.

While the preferred embodiments of the devices and methods have been described in reference to the environment in which they were developed, they are merely illustrative of the principles of the inventions. The devices may be used various intracerebral procedures such as intra-

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ventricular hemorrhage procedures, neuro-stimulation procedures, and tumor resection. The elements of the various embodiments may be incorporated into each of the other species to obtain the benefits of those elements in combination with such other species, and the various beneficial features may be employed in embodiments alone or in combination with each other. Other embodiments and configurations may be devised without departing from the spirit of the inventions and the scope of the appended claims.

We claim:

1. A method for imaging a surgical field in a patient's brain comprising the steps:
 - providing a cannula system for accessing a surgical field, said cannula system comprising:
 - a cannula comprising a cannula tube with a proximal end and a distal end and a lumen extending from the proximal end to the distal end; and
 - a camera secured to the proximal end of the cannula, wherein said camera is translatable from a first position in which the camera extends into the lumen

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or a cylindrical space defined by the lumen of the cannula tube and extending therefrom, to a second position in which the camera resides outside of the lumen or the cylindrical space defined by the lumen of the cannula tube;

- moving the camera to the second position;
 - inserting an obturator with a proximal end and a distal end through the cannula lumen;
 - inserting the distal end of the cannula and the distal end of the obturator into the patient's brain;
 - removing the obturator;
 - moving the camera to the first position;
 - operating the camera to obtain an image of the surgical field.
2. The method of claim 1, further comprising the step of: inserting a surgical instrument through the cannula tube, into the surgical field, while the camera is in the first position.

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