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(54) Title: HIGH PRESSURE MULTIBORE JUNCTION ASSEMBLY

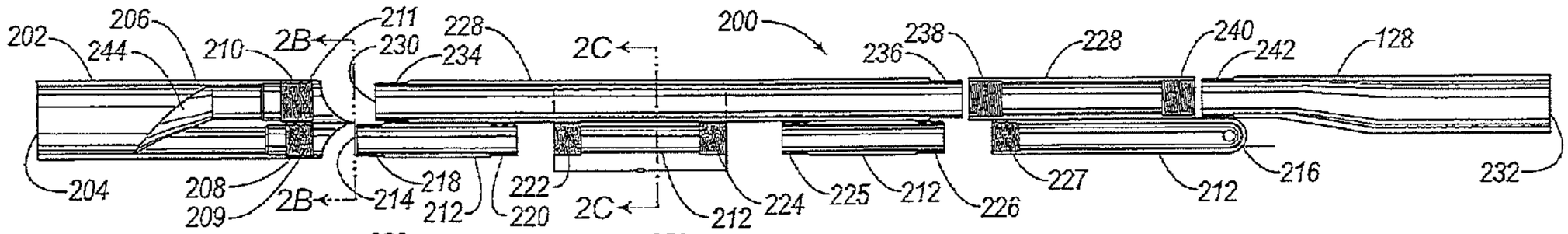

FIG. 2A

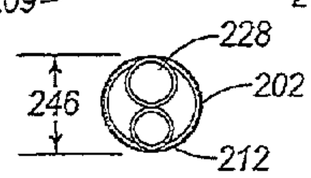

FIG. 2B

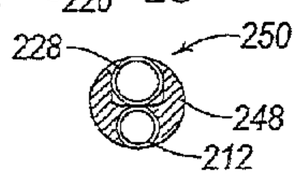

FIG. 2C

(57) Abrégé/Abstract:
A high pressure multibore junction assembly and methods for completion of a wellbore using the high pressure multibore junction assembly.

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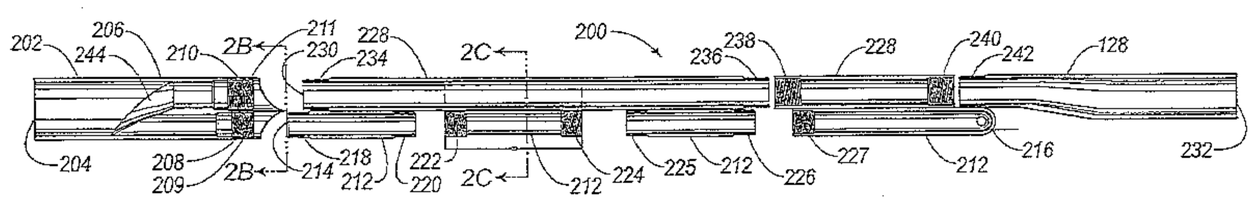

FIG. 2A

(57) **Abstract**: A high pressure multibore junction assembly and methods for completion of a wellbore using the high pressure multibore junction assembly.

HIGH PRESSURE MULTIBORE JUNCTION ASSEMBLY

CROSS-REFERENCE TO RELATED APPLICATIONS

[0001] This application claims the priority of U.S. Patent Application Serial No. 13/152,892, filed on June 3, 2011, which is incorporated herein by reference.

STATEMENT REGARDING FEDERALLY SPONSORED RESEARCH

[0002] Not applicable.

FIELD OF THE INVENTION

[0003] The present invention generally relates to a high pressure multibore junction assembly and methods for completion of a lateral wellbore using the high pressure multibore junction assembly.

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

[0004] Wellbores are typically drilled using a drilling string with a drill bit secured to the lower free end and then completed by positioning a casing string within the wellbore and cementing the casing string in position. The casing increases the integrity of the wellbore and provides a flow path between the surface and selected subterranean formation for the injection of treating chemicals into the surrounding formation to stimulate production, for receiving the flow of hydrocarbons from the formation, and for permitting the introduction of fluids for reservoir management or disposal purposes.

[0005] A multibore junction assembly is typically used during completion of a lateral wellbore for producing oil and gas after completion of the lateral wellbore. During the final stages of completion of the lateral wellbore, a multibore junction assembly is lowered into the wellbore on the drill string to a depth where the lateral wellbore extends away from the main wellbore. The multibore junction assembly typically includes a main leg and a lateral leg. The multibore junction assembly therefore, may be secured by a main leg stabbing into a completion deflector. The lateral leg of the multibore junction assembly may then be positioned through the lateral wellbore for completion and production operations. Examples of a multibore junction assembly include Halliburton's FlexRite® and SealRite® products. However, most commercially available products, like FlexRite® and SealRite®, either do not permit reentry into both the main leg and the lateral leg for completion and production operations or they cannot withstand wellbore pressures above 5400 psi because of their design and/or construction.

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

[0006] The present invention overcomes one or more of the prior art disadvantages by using a high pressure multibore junction assembly with main leg and lateral leg reentry capability to complete a lateral wellbore under high pressure conditions.

[0007] In one embodiment the present invention includes a high-pressure multibore junction assembly, comprising: i) a body with an upper end and a lower end; ii) a tubular main leg with an opening at one end for entry by a tool or another tool, wherein the one end of the main leg is threadably connected to the lower end of the body and increases a high-pressure rating for

the multibore junction assembly; and iii) a tubular lateral leg with an opening at one end for entry by the tool or the another tool and another opening at another end, wherein the one end of the lateral leg is threadably connected to the lower end of the body and increases the high-pressure rating for the multibore junction assembly.

[0008] In another embodiment, the present invention includes a high-pressure multibore junction assembly, comprising: i) a body with an upper end and a lower end; ii) a tubular main leg with an opening at one end for entry by a tool or another tool, wherein the main leg includes a wall with a thickness based on an outside diameter of the body that increases a high-pressure rating for the multibore junction assembly; and iii) a tubular lateral leg with an opening at one end for entry by the tool or the another tool and another opening at another end, wherein the lateral leg includes a wall with a thickness based on an outside diameter of the body that increases the high-pressure rating for the multibore junction assembly.

[0009] In yet another embodiment, the present invention includes a method for completion of a lateral wellbore, comprising: i) lowering a multibore junction assembly into a main wellbore to a depth at which the pressure in the main wellbore is about or greater than 6,000 PSI, the multibore junction assembly comprising a tubular main leg and a tubular lateral leg; ii) securing the main leg within the main wellbore; iii) positioning the lateral leg through the lateral wellbore; and iv) entering the main leg or the lateral leg with a tool.

[0010] These and other objects, features and advantages of the present invention will become apparent to those skilled in the art from the following description of the various embodiments and related drawings.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

[0011] The invention will be described with reference to the accompanying drawings, in which like elements are referenced with like reference numbers, and in which:

[0012] **FIG. 1A** is a cross-sectional view illustrating one embodiment of a high pressure multibore junction assembly according to the present invention.

[0013] **FIG. 1B** is a cross-sectional view of the high pressure multibore junction assembly along **1B-1B** in **FIG. 1A**

[0014] **FIG. 1C** is a cross-sectional view of the high pressure multibore junction assembly along **1C-1C** in **FIG. 1A**.

[0015] **FIG. 2A** is a cross-sectional view illustrating another embodiment of a high-pressure multibore junction assembly according to the present invention.

[0016] **FIG. 2B** is a cross-sectional view illustrating another embodiment of a high pressure multibore junction assembly along line **2B-2B** in **FIG. 2A**.

[0017] **FIG. 2C** is a cross-sectional view of the high pressure multibore junction assembly along **2C-2C** in **FIG. 2A**.

[0018] **FIG. 3** is a side view illustrating another embodiment of a high pressure multibore junction assembly with multiple stabilizers.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE PREFERRED EMBODIMENTS

[0019] In the following detailed description of the preferred embodiments, references to the accompanying drawings that form a part hereof, and in which is shown by way of illustration specific preferred embodiments in which the invention may be practiced. These embodiments are described in sufficient detail to enable those skilled in the art to practice the invention, and it is to be understood that other embodiments that may be utilized and that logical changes may be made without departing from the spirit and scope of the present invention. The claimed subject matter thus, might also be embodied in other ways, to include structures, steps and combinations similar to the ones described herein, in conjunction with other present or future technologies. The following detailed description is therefore, not to be taken in a limiting sense, and the scope of the present invention is defined only by the appended claims.

[0020] Referring now to **FIG. 1A,** a cross-sectional view of one embodiment of a high-pressure multibore junction assembly **100** is illustrated. The multibore junction assembly **100** includes a body **102**, a main leg **112** and a lateral leg **128**. The body **102** includes an upper end **104,** a lower end **106** and an outside diameter **146**, which is illustrated in **FIG. 1B**. The lower end **106** of the body **102** includes a main leg receptacle **108** with internal threads **109** and a lateral leg receptacle **110** with internal threads **111**. The threaded connections for the various components of the high-pressure multibore junction assembly embodiments described herein are oriented, but are not limited to the particular internal threads or external threads described for each component and may include internal threads instead of external threads or external threads instead of internal threads based upon the preferred construction of the components for each embodiment.

[0021] The main leg **112** includes an opening **114** at one end for entry by a tool and is closed at another end **116**. The main leg **112** also includes an inside diameter, an outside diameter and a wall with a thickness based on the outside diameter **146** of the body **102**. External threads **118** at the one end of the main leg **112** make up a threaded connection with the internal threads **109** in the main leg receptacle **108** of the body **102**, which may increase a high-pressure rating for the multibore junction assembly **100**. The main leg **112** may include multiple components as illustrated in **FIG. 1A** that include threaded connections between the external threads **120, 126** and the internal threads **122, 124**—respectively. The threaded connections for the various components that make up the main leg **112** therefore, may also increase the high-pressure rating for the multibore junction assembly **100**. Further, the tubular design and wall of the main leg **112** may further increase the high-pressure rating for the multibore junction assembly **100**.

[0022] The lateral leg **128** includes an opening **130** at one end for entry by a tool and another opening **132** at another end. The lateral leg **128** also includes an inside diameter, an outside diameter and a wall with a thickness based on the outside diameter **146** of the body **102**. External threads **134** at the one end of the lateral leg **128** make up the threaded connection with the internal threads **111** in the lateral leg receptacle **110** of the body **102**, which may increase the high pressure rating for the multibore junction assembly **100**. The lateral leg **128** may include multiple components as illustrated in **FIG. 1A** that include threaded connections between the external threads **136, 142** and the internal threads **138, 140**—respectively. The threaded connections for the various components that make up the lateral leg **128** therefore, may also increase the high pressure rating for the multibore junction assembly **100**. Further,

the tubular design and wall of the lateral leg **128** may further increase the high pressure rating for the multibore junction assembly **100.** Although the inside diameter of the lateral leg **128** is larger than the inside diameter of the main leg **112,** as illustrated in **FIG. 1A**, the inside diameter of the lateral leg **128** may be smaller than, or the same as, the inside diameter of the main leg **112.**

[0023] The body **102** of the multibore junction assembly **100** may also include a deflector **144** positioned within the body **102** for selectively directing a tool into the main leg **112** or the lateral leg **128** based upon a diameter of the tool. If the diameter of the tool is smaller than the inside diameter of the main leg **112**, then the same tool may be used to enter the opening **114** of the main leg **112** and the opening **130** of the lateral leg **128.** In this case, the tool may be directed to enter the opening **114** of the main leg **112** by orienting the multibore junction assembly **100** and/or the tool in a manner so that gravity directs the tool to the lower opening **114** of the main leg **112.** If, however, the diameter of the tool is larger than the inside diameter of the main leg **112**, then another tool may be preferred to enter only the opening **130** of the lateral leg **128**. In this case, the tool traverses the deflector **144** into the opening **130** of the lateral leg **128**.

[0024] As illustrated in **FIG. 1B**, which is a cross-sectional view of the high-pressure multibore junction assembly **100** along **1B-1B** in **FIG. 1A**, the combined outside diameter of the main leg **112** and the outside diameter of the lateral leg **128** are no greater than the outside diameter **146** of the body **102**. As a result, the multibore junction assembly **100** does not include any welded connections that may impair its ability to freely traverse a wellbore lined with casing.

[0025] As illustrated in **FIG. 1C**, which is a cross-sectional view of the high-pressure multibore junction assembly **100** along **1C-1C** in **FIG. 1A,** a stabilizer **148** may be connected to the main leg **112** using screws **152**, which includes an opening **150** for receipt of the lateral leg **128**. Alternatively, the stabilizer may be connected to the lateral leg **128** and include an opening for receipt of the main leg **112**.

[0026] Referring now to **FIG. 2A**, a cross-sectional view of another embodiment of a high pressure multibore junction assembly **200** is illustrated. The multibore junction assembly **200** includes a body **202**, a main leg **212** and a lateral leg **228**. The body **202** includes an upper end **204**, a lower end **206** and an outside diameter **246**, which is illustrated in **FIG. 2B**. The lower end **206** of the body **202** includes a main leg receptacle **208** with internal threads **209** and a lateral leg receptacle **210** with internal threads **211**.

[0027] The main leg **212** includes an opening **214** at one end for entry by a tool and is closed at another end **216**. The main leg **212** also includes an inside diameter, an outside diameter and a wall with a thickness based on the outside diameter **246** of the body **202.** External threads **218** at the one end of the main leg **212** make up a threaded connection with the internal threads **209** and the main leg receptacle **208** of the body **202**, which may increase a high pressure rating for the multibore junction assembly **200**. The main leg **212** may include multiple components as illustrated in **FIG. 2A** that include threaded connections between the external threads **220**, **225** and the internal threads **222**, **224**—respectively. Compared to **FIG. 1A**, the main leg **212** includes additional components with threaded connections between the external threads **226** and the internal threads **227**. The threaded connections for the various components that make up the main leg **212** therefore, may also increase the high pressure

rating for the multibore junction assembly **200.** Further, the tubular design and wall of the main leg **212** may further increase the high pressure rating for the multibore junction assembly **200**.

[0028] The lateral leg **228** includes an opening **230** at one end for entry by a tool and another opening **232** at another end. The lateral leg **228** also includes an inside diameter, an outside diameter and wall with a thickness based on the outside diameter **246** of the body **202**. External threads **234** at the one of the lateral leg **228** make up the threaded connection with the internal threads **211** in the lateral leg receptacle **210** of the body **202**, which may increase the high pressure rating for the multibore junction assembly **200**. The lateral leg **228** may include multiple components as illustrated in **FIG. 2A** that include threaded connections between the external threads **236, 242**, and the internal threads **238, 240**—respectively. The threaded connections for the various components that make up the lateral leg **228** therefore, may also increase the high pressure rating for the multibore junction assembly **200.** Further, the tubular design and wall of the lateral leg **228** may further increase the high pressure rating for the multibore junction assembly **200**. Although the inside diameter of the lateral leg **228** is larger than the inside diameter of the main leg **212**, as illustrated in **FIG. 2A**, the inside diameter of the lateral leg **228** may be smaller than, or the same as, the inside diameter of the main leg **212**.

[0029] The body **202** of the multibore junction assembly **200** may also include a deflector **244** positioned within the body **202** for selectively directing a tool into the main leg **212** or the lateral leg **228** based upon a diameter of the tool. If the diameter of the tool is smaller than the inside diameter of the main leg **212**, then the same tool may be used to enter the opening

214 of the main leg **212** and the opening **230** of the lateral leg **228**. In this case, the tool may be directed to enter the opening **214** of the main leg **212** by orienting the multibore junction assembly **200** and/or the tool in a manner so that gravity directs the tool to the lower opening **214** of the main leg **212**. If, however, the diameter of the tool is larger than the inside diameter of the main leg **212**, then another tool may be preferred to enter only the opening **230** of the lateral leg **228**. In this case, the tool traverses the deflector **244** into the opening **230** of the lateral leg **228**.

[0030] As illustrated in **FIG. 2B**, which is a cross-sectional view of the high pressure multibore junction assembly **200** along **2B-2B** in **FIG. 2B**, the combined outside diameter of the main leg **212** and the outside diameter of the lateral leg **228** are no greater than the outside diameter **246** of the body **202**. As a result, the multibore junction assembly **200** does not include any welded connections that may impair its ability to freely traverse a wellbore lined with casing.

[0031] As illustrated in **FIG. 2C**, which is a cross-sectional view of the high pressure multibore junction assembly **200** along **2C-2C** in **FIG. 2A**, the main leg **212** includes a stabilizer **248** with an opening **250** for receipt of the lateral leg **228**. Although this is the preferred embodiment, the lateral leg **228** may include the stabilizer with an opening for receipt of the main leg **212**.

[0032] The high pressure multibore junction assembly described herein may be used to complete a lateral wellbore in the following manner described in reference to **FIG. 3**. The high pressure multibore junction assembly **300** is lowered into a main wellbore to a depth in

which the pressure in the main wellbore is about or greater than 6000 psi. The multibore junction assembly **300** includes a substantially tubular main leg **312** and a substantially tubular lateral leg **328**. The main leg **312** is secured within the main wellbore using a completion deflector which may be positioned in the main wellbore below the lateral wellbore for securing the main leg **312**. The lateral leg **328** is positioned through the lateral wellbore, wherein the main leg **312** and/or the lateral leg **328** may be entered with a tool for completion and production operations. The lateral leg **328** may be selectively entered or reentered with the tool using a deflector **344** to deflect the tool into the lateral leg **328** based upon a diameter of the tool.

[0033] The main leg **312** may be stabilized relative to the lateral leg **328** with a stabilizer as the multibore junction assembly **300** is lowered into the main wellbore. In **FIG. 3**, there are three separate stabilizers, **348, 358**, and **368**. Stabilizer **348** may be positioned near an upper end **304** of the multibore junction assembly **300**. Each stabilizer **348, 358, 368** stabilizes the main leg **312** relative to the lateral leg **328** as the multibore junction assembly **300** is lowered into the main wellbore. Each stabilizer **348**, **358**, and **368**, is connected to the main leg **312** with an opening for receipt of the lateral leg **328**. Alternatively, each stabilizer may be connected to the lateral leg **328** with an opening for receipt of the main leg **312** or the main leg **312** may include each stabilizer **348, 358, 368** in the manner described in reference to **FIG. 2C**. By providing additional stabilizers, the main leg **312** and the lateral leg **328** may be kept in alignment, without buckling, as the multibore junction assembly **300** is rotated and lowered into the main wellbore. Each stabilizer **348, 358, 368** also helps to keep the lateral leg **328** on the top side and the main leg **312** on the bottom side, which is preferred.

[0034] Although specific embodiments have been illustrated and described herein, it will be appreciated by those of ordinary skill in the art that any arrangement which is calculated to achieve the same purpose may be substituted for the specific embodiments shown. This application is intended to cover any adaptations or variations of the present invention. Therefore, it is manifestly intended that this invention be limited only by the following claims and equivalents thereof.

CLAIMS

1. A high-pressure multibore junction assembly, comprising:

a body with an upper end and a lower end;

a tubular main leg with an opening at one end for entry by a tool or another tool, wherein the one end of the main leg is threadably connected to the lower end of the body and increases a high-pressure rating for the multibore junction assembly; and

a tubular lateral leg with an opening at one end for entry by the tool or the another tool and another opening at another end, wherein the one end of the lateral leg is threadably connected to the lower end of the body and increases the high-pressure rating for the multibore junction assembly.

2. The multibore junction assembly of claim 1, further comprising a deflector positioned within the body for selectively directing the tool or the another tool into the lateral leg based upon a diameter of the tool.

3. The multibore junction assembly of claim 1, wherein the main leg includes a wall with a thickness based on an outside diameter of the body that increases the high-pressure rating for the multibore junction assembly.

4. The multibore junction assembly of claim 1, wherein the lateral leg includes a wall with a thickness based on an outside diameter of the body that increases the high-pressure rating for the multibore junction assembly.

5. The multibore junction assembly of claim 1, wherein the body includes an outside diameter, the main leg includes an outside diameter and the lateral leg includes an outside diameter, the combined outside diameter of the main leg and the outside diameter

of the lateral leg being no greater than the outside diameter of the body.

6. The multibore junction assembly of claim 5, wherein the main leg includes an inside diameter and the lateral leg includes an inside diameter,

7. The multibore junction assembly of claim 6, wherein the inside diameter of the lateral leg is larger than the inside diameter of the main leg.

8. The multibore junction assembly of claim 6, wherein the inside diameter of the lateral leg is the same as the inside diameter of the main leg.

9. The multibore junction assembly of claim 1, wherein the main leg includes a stabilizer with an opening for receipt of the lateral leg.

10. The multibore junction assembly of claim 1, further comprising a stabilizer connected to the main leg or the lateral leg with an opening for receipt of the main leg or the lateral leg.

11. A high-pressure multibore junction assembly, comprising:

a body with an upper end and a lower end;

a tubular main leg with an opening at one end for entry by a tool or another tool, wherein the main leg includes a wall with a thickness based on an outside diameter of the body that increases a high-pressure rating for the multibore junction assembly; and

a tubular lateral leg with an opening at one end for entry by the tool or the another tool and another opening at another end, wherein the lateral leg includes a wall with a thickness based on an outside diameter of the body that increases the high-pressure rating for the multibore junction assembly.

12. The multibore junction assembly of claim 11, further comprising a

deflector positioned within the body for selectively directing the tool or the another tool into the lateral leg based upon a diameter of the tool.

13. The multibore junction assembly of claim 11, wherein the one end of the main leg is threadably connected to the lower end of the body and increases the high-pressure rating for the multibore junction assembly.

14. The multibore junction assembly of claim 11, wherein the one end of the lateral leg is threadably connected to the lower end of the body and increases the high-pressure rating for the multibore junction assembly.

15. The multibore junction assembly of claim 11, wherein the body includes an outside diameter, the main leg includes an outside diameter and the lateral leg includes an outside diameter, the combined outside diameter of the main leg and the outside diameter of the lateral leg being no greater than the outside diameter of the body.

16. The multibore junction assembly of claim 15, wherein the main leg includes an inside diameter and the lateral leg includes an inside diameter,

17. The multibore junction assembly of claim 16, wherein the inside diameter of the lateral leg is larger than the inside diameter of the main leg.

18. The multibore junction assembly of claim 16, wherein the inside diameter of the lateral leg is the same as the inside diameter of the main leg.

19. The multibore junction assembly of claim 11, wherein the main leg includes a stabilizer with an opening for receipt of the lateral leg.

20. The multibore junction assembly of claim 11, further comprising a stabilizer connected to the main leg or the lateral leg with an opening for receipt of the main leg or the lateral leg.

21. A method for completion of a lateral wellbore, comprising:

lowering a multibore junction assembly into a main wellbore to a depth at which the pressure in the main wellbore is about or greater than 6,000 PSI, the multibore junction assembly comprising a tubular main leg and a tubular lateral leg;

securing the main leg within the main wellbore;

positioning the lateral leg through the lateral wellbore; and

entering the main leg or the lateral leg with a tool.

22. The method of claim 21, further comprising stabilizing the main leg relative to the lateral leg with a stabilizer as the multibore junction assembly is lowered into the main wellbore.

23. The method of claim 21, wherein the lateral leg is selectively entered with the tool using a deflector to deflect the tool into the lateral leg based upon a diameter of the tool.

24. The method of claim 21, further comprising positioning a completion deflector in the main wellbore below the lateral wellbore for securing the main leg.

25. The method of claim 22, wherein the stabilizer is connected to the main leg or the lateral leg and includes an opening for receipt of the main leg or the lateral leg.

26. The method of claim 22, wherein the main leg includes the stabilizer and the stabilizer includes an opening for receipt of the lateral leg.

27. The method of claim 22, further comprising positioning the stabilizer near an upper end of the multibore junction assembly.

28. The method of claim 22, further comprising stabilizing the main leg

relative to the lateral leg with another stabilizer as the multibore junction assembly is lowered into the main wellbore.

29. The method of claim 28, wherein the another stabilizer is connected to the main leg or the lateral leg and includes an opening for receipt of the main leg or the lateral leg.

30. The method of claim 28, wherein the main leg includes the another stabilizer and the another stabilizer includes an opening for receipt of the lateral leg.

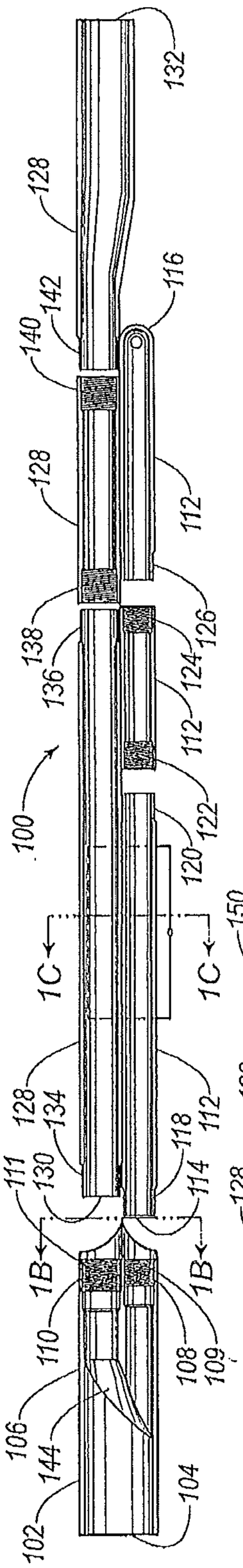

FIG. 1A

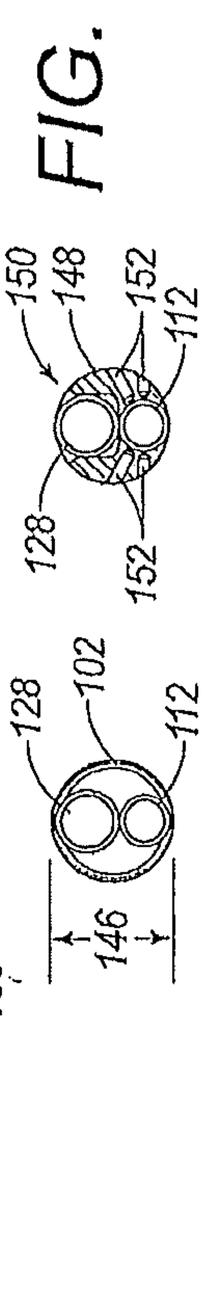

FIG. 1C

FIG. 1B

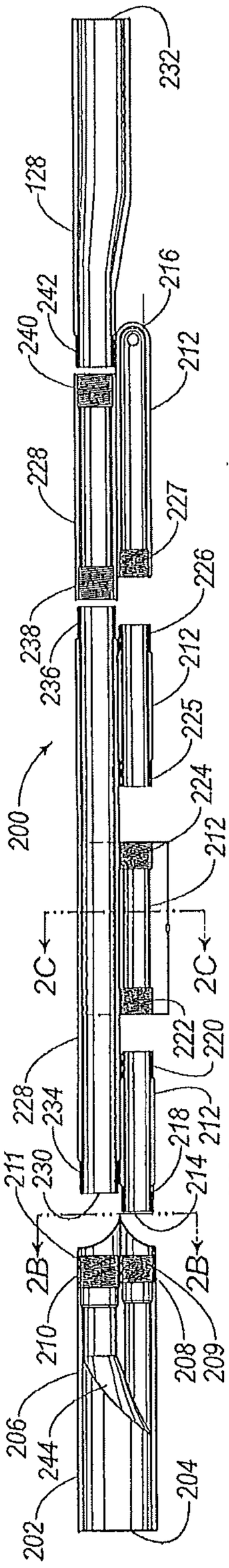

FIG. 2A

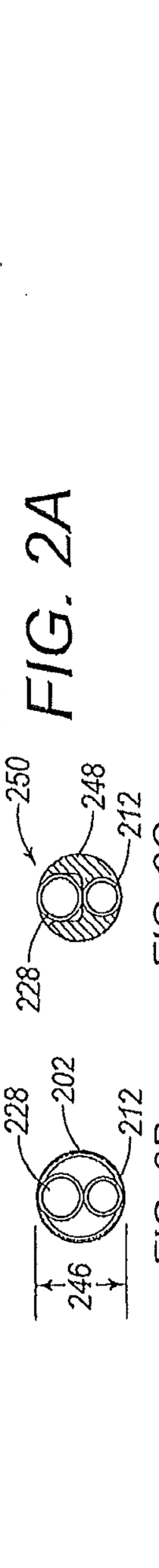

FIG. 2C

FIG. 2B

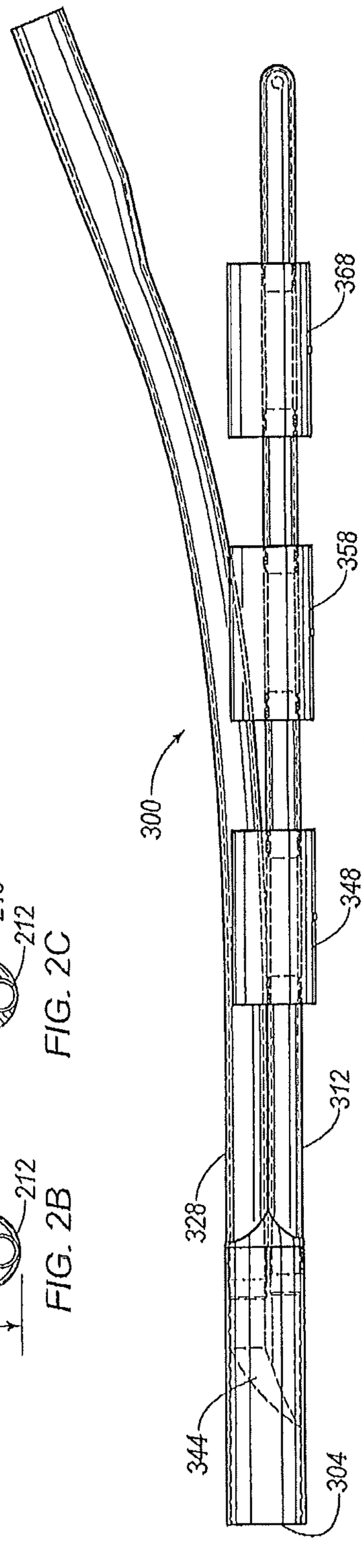

FIG. 3

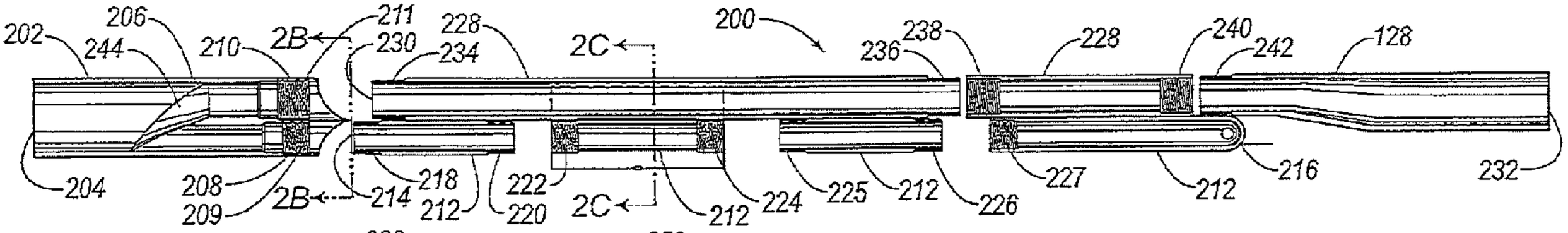

FIG. 2A

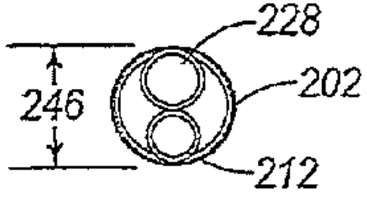

FIG. 2B

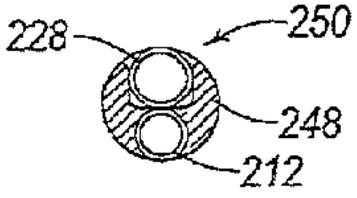

FIG. 2C