A: Whole-mount preparation of osseous lamina (OSL) and basilar membrane at a level of focus that shows a vessel (horizontal arrow) emerging from the OSL and joining the spiral vessel (vertical arrows) under the basilar membrane.

B: Scanning micrograph showing a similar situation in which a vessel (horizontal arrow) emerges from the OSL to join the spiral vessel (vertical arrows). As in the preceding micrograph (#32), the spiral vessel under the basilar membrane appears exposed to the perilymphatic space and therefore vulnerable to electrode injury.