

CLAIMS

1. An apparatus, comprising:

a connector having a distal piece and a proximal piece, wherein the distal piece and the proximal piece are coupled together in a snap fit or an interference fit, a distal end of the distal piece of the connector having a male luer adapter configured to couple with a proximal end of a catheter adapter, a proximal end of the proximal piece of the connector having female luer adapter;

a catheter secured within the distal piece of the connector, the catheter extending from the distal end of the distal piece of the connector, the catheter having a closed distal end and a slit adjacent the closed distal end, wherein the slit is closed under normal physiological pressures, wherein the proximal piece comprises a tubular element snugly inserted inside the proximal end of the catheter, the tubular element having an outer diameter slightly less than an inner diameter of the catheter;

a guidewire hub comprising a male luer adapter removably coupled to the female luer adapter of the proximal piece of the connector; and

a guidewire having a proximal end and a distal end, the guidewire extending from the distal end of the guidewire hub and disposed within the catheter, wherein the proximal end of the guidewire is secured within the guidewire hub.

2. The apparatus of claim 1, wherein a distal end of the guidewire comprises a spherical ball feature.

3. The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the guidewire extends through the tubular element, wherein the tubular element is constructed of metal.

4. The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the catheter is constructed of silicone.

5. The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the catheter is constructed of polyurethane.

6. The apparatus of claim 1, wherein an outer diameter of the catheter is between 0.034 and 0.036 inches.

7. The apparatus of claim 1, further comprising a peripheral intravenous catheter assembly comprising the catheter adapter and a peripheral intravenous catheter extending distally from the catheter adapter, wherein the male luer adapter of the distal end of the distal piece of the connector is coupled with the proximal end of the catheter adapter, wherein the catheter extends beyond the distal end of the peripheral intravenous catheter.

8. The apparatus of claim 7, wherein the catheter extends between about one and two inches beyond the distal end of the peripheral intravenous catheter.

9. An apparatus, comprising:

a connector having a proximal end and a distal end, the distal end of the connector having a male luer adapter configured to couple with a proximal end of a catheter adapter; and

a catheter having a proximal end secured within the connector, the catheter extending from the distal end of the connector, the catheter having a closed distal end and a slit adjacent the closed distal end, wherein the slit is closed under normal physiological pressures;

a guidewire hub removably coupled to the proximal end of the connector; and

a guidewire having a proximal end and a distal end, the guidewire extending from a distal end of the guidewire hub and disposed within the catheter, wherein the proximal end of the guidewire is secured within the guidewire hub, wherein the distal end of the guidewire comprises a rounded ball feature disposed proximate the closed distal end of the catheter, wherein the rounded ball feature is configured to contact the closed distal end and facilitate pushing of the catheter into vasculature,

wherein the connector comprises a distal piece and a proximal piece coupled together, wherein the proximal piece comprises a tubular element disposed within the proximal end of the catheter, the tubular element having an outer diameter slightly less than an inner diameter of the catheter such that the tubular element snugly fits within the proximal end of the catheter, wherein the guidewire extends through the tubular element.

10. The apparatus of claim 9, wherein the proximal end of the connector comprises a female luer adapter.

11. The apparatus of claim 10, further comprising a needleless connector coupled to the female luer adapter.

12. The apparatus of claim 9, wherein the connector is monolithically formed as a single unit.

13. The apparatus of claim 9, wherein the distal piece and the proximal piece are coupled together in a snap fit or an interference fit.

14. The apparatus of claim 9, wherein the tubular element is constructed of metal.

15. The apparatus of claim 9, wherein the catheter is constructed of polyurethane.

16. The apparatus of claim 9, wherein an outer diameter of the catheter is between 0.034 and 0.036 inches.

17. The apparatus of claim 9, wherein the catheter is a first catheter, further comprising a peripheral intravenous catheter assembly comprising the catheter adapter and a second catheter extending distally from the catheter adapter, wherein the male luer adapter is coupled with the proximal end of the catheter adapter, wherein the first catheter extends beyond the distal end of the second catheter.

18. The apparatus of claim 17, wherein the first catheter extends between about one and two inches beyond the distal end of the second catheter.