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(54) Title: STENT DELIVERY APPARATUS AND METHODS OF MANUFACTURE

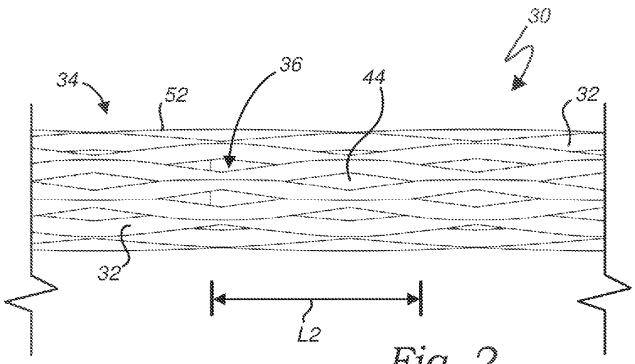


Fig. 2

(57) Abstract: An improved stent delivery apparatus is disclosed and configured for having radiopaque properties without sacrificing the structural integrity or functionality of the apparatusitself. In at least one embodiment, the apparatus provides a plurality of individual strandsbraided together to form a self-expanding stent delivery structure having a proximal end and an opposing distal end, the delivery structure forming an elongated primary shape capable of being inserted into a catheter. An at least one radiopaque marker is coaxially positioned within and secured to a circumferential inner surface of the delivery structure. Accordingly, the delivery structure has a primary outer diameter that is substantially uniform along an entire length of the delivery structure.

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