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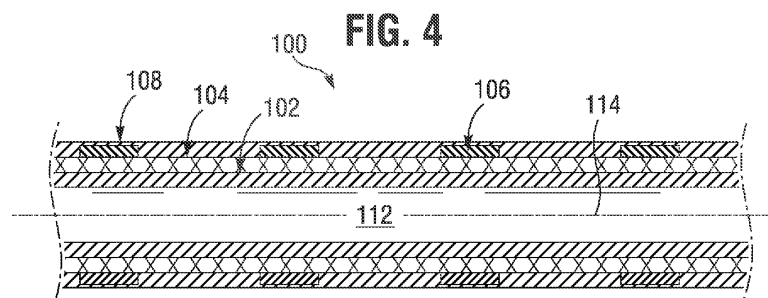
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(54) Title: EXPANDABLE SHEATH



(57) Abstract: The expandable sheaths (100) disclosed herein have a plurality of radially arranged layers, including an inner liner (102), a first polymeric layer positioned radially outward of the inner liner, a braided layer (104) positioned radially outward of the first polymeric layer, a second polymeric layer positioned radially outward of the braided layer, and an outer liner (108) positioned radially outward of the second polymeric layer. The sheath comprises a plurality of longitudinally-extending pleats in a collapsed (unexpanded) configuration, and the longitudinally-extending pleats incorporate the plurality of radially arranged layers. When a medical device is passed through the sheath, a diameter of the sheath locally expands around the medical device while the first and second polymeric layers resist axial elongation of the sheath such that a length of the sheath remains substantially constant. The sheath resiliently collapses after the passage of the medical device.

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