WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A transseptal insertion device which is suitable for facilitating precise and safe transseptal puncture of a cardiac interatrial septum, comprising:

a sheath having a distal end that is positioned toward the cardiac interatrial septum of a patient when the transseptal insertion device is in use and a proximal end, and said sheath includes a lumen extending between said distal end and said proximal end of said sheath;

at least one positioning balloon extending radially outwardly from said sheath adjacent said distal end of the sheath, wherein said at least one positioning balloon is moveable from an inflated position to a deflated position and, in said inflated position, the at least one positioning balloon stabilizes the transseptal insertion device against fossa ovalis of the cardiac interatrial septum, and wherein said at least one positioning balloon is tubular and has a distal end connected to said sheath, a proximal end connected to said sheath, and a medial portion between said at least one positioning balloon distal end and proximal end, said at least one positioning balloon medial portion being positioned radially distanced from said sheath and wherein at least one of said distal and proximal ends of said at least one positioning balloon is fluidly sealed with said sheath;

and wherein the sheath includes at least one port positioned adjacent to said at least one positioning balloon to provide fluid communication between said at least one positioning balloon and said at least one port of said sheath wherein said at least one port inflates the at least one positioning balloon when said at least one positioning balloon moves from said deflated position to said inflated position; and

a puncture member extending longitudinally within the lumen of said sheath, wherein said puncture member has a distal wherein said puncture member is movable from a retracted position wherein said distal end of said puncture member is within said lumen of said sheath to an operative position wherein said distal end of said puncture member extends distally from said distal end of said sheath.

2. The transseptal insertion device according to Claim 1 wherein said at least one positioning balloon distal end and said proximal end are fluidly sealed to said sheath.

3. The transseptal insertion device according to Claim 2 wherein said at least one port is in fluid communication with said at least one positioning balloon medial portion.

4. The transseptal insertion device according to Claim 1 wherein said sheath includes at least one hypotube extending from said sheath proximal end and parallel to said sheath lumen and said at least one hypotube is in fluid communication with said at least one positioning balloon.

5. The transseptal insertion device according to Claim 1 wherein said transseptal insertion device at least two of said at least one positioning balloon.

6. A transseptal insertion device which is suitable for facilitating precise and safe transseptal puncture of a cardiac interatrial septum, comprising a sheath having a distal end that is positioned toward the cardiac interatrial septum of a patient when the transseptal insertion device is in use and a proximal end that is external to the patient, and said sheath includes a lumen extending between said distal end and said proximal end of said sheath;

at least two positioning balloon extending radially outwardly from said sheath adjacent said distal end of the sheath, wherein said at least two positioning balloons are moveable from an inflated position to a deflated position and, in said inflated position, the at least two positioning balloons stabilize the transseptal insertion device against fossa ovalis of the cardiac interatrial septum, and wherein each of said at least two positioning balloons extend from said sheath distal end proximally along a length of said sheath;

an outer covering substantially surrounding said at least two positioning balloons forming an outermost balloon for stabilizing the transseptal insertion device against fossa ovalis of the cardiac interatrial septum;

wherein each of said at least two positioning balloons are connected to at least one hypotube connected to a fluid source for inflating said at least two positioning balloons to expand said outer covering when said at least positioning balloons are inflated; and

a puncture member extending longitudinally within the lumen of said sheath wherein said puncture member has a distal end wherein said puncture member is movable from a retracted position wherein said distal end of said puncture member is within said lumen of said sheath to an operative position wherein said distal end of said puncture member extends distally from said distal end of said sheath.

7. The transseptal insertion device according to Claim 6 further comprising at least two of said hypotubes wherein each positioning balloon is fluidly communicative with a respective one of said at least two of said hypotubes wherein said at least two positioning balloons are

independently inflated and a pressure of said outer covering is variable by independently adjusting pressures of said at least two positioning balloons.

8. The transseptal insertion device according to Claim 6 further comprising at least one transducer mounted to said outer covering between said at least two positioning balloons for providing imaging capability wherein adjustment of a pressure of said outer covering adjusts an imaging direction of said at least one transducer

9. A method for suitably facilitating precise and safe transseptal puncture of a cardiac interatrial septum with a transseptal insertion device to perform an intracardiac medical procedure comprising:

providing the transseptal insertion device having a sheath with a distal end, a proximal end, and a lumen extending between the distal and proximal ends and having a positioning balloon extending radially outwardly from the sheath adjacent the sheath distal end wherein the positioning balloon is moveable from an inflated position to a deflated position wherein, in the inflated position, the positioning balloon overhangs and extends past the distal end of the sheath preventing accidental puncturing of the cardiac interatrial septum and stabilizing the transseptal insertion device against fossa ovalis of the cardiac interatrial septum, and wherein a puncture member extends within the sheath lumen and is movable from a retracted position wherein the distal end of the puncture member is within the sheath lumen to an operative position wherein the distal end of the puncture member extends distally from the distal end of said sheath;

positioning the puncture member in the retracted position within the sheath;

positioning the transseptal insertion device distal end adjacent a first side of the septum;

inflating the positioning balloon to the inflated position so as to extend past and overhang the sheath distal end;

tenting a surface portion of the first side of the septum with the inflated positioning balloon intended for piercing by the puncture member;

advancing the puncture member within the sheath lumen from the retracted position to the operative position so as to contact the first side of the septum within the inflated positioning balloon;

further advancing the puncture member and contacting the septum;

further advancing the puncture member and piercing the septum;

deflating the positioning balloon;

advancing transeptal device across the septum; and

reinflating the positioning balloon beyond a second side of the septum for navigating in an atraumatic fashion to different parts of the left atrium for performing the intracardiac medical procedure.

10. The method according to claim 9 wherein the puncture member includes a puncture member balloon extending radially outwardly from the puncture member adjacent the distal end of the puncture member wherein the puncture member balloon is moveable from a deflated position to an inflated position, said method further includes the step of inflating the puncture member balloon prior to said step of the puncture member contacting the septum.

11. The method according to Claim 10 further comprising:

the step of deflating the puncture member balloon to advance the puncture member prior to said step of advancing the puncture member to the operative position wherein the puncture member balloon is distally positioned relative to the sheath distal end,

more preferably, the step of reinflating the puncture member balloon prior to said step of the puncture member piercing the septum,

more preferably, the step of deflating the puncture member balloon after said step of piercing the septum,

more preferably, the step of removing the puncture member from the sheath lumen.

12. The method according to Claim 10 wherein said steps of inflating and deflating the positioning balloon and said steps of inflating and deflating the puncture member balloon occur independent of one another.

13. The method according to Claim 10 wherein said step of providing the puncture member balloon on the puncture member includes positioning the puncture member balloon a predetermined distance from a tip of the distal end of the puncture member and abutting the inflated puncture member balloon against the first side of the septum and preventing the puncture member from being pushed beyond the predetermined distance during said step of piercing the septum by the puncture member.

14. The method according to Claim 9 wherein the sheath defines an inflation port positioned adjacent the positioning balloon and said method further includes the step of providing fluid communication between the positioning balloon and the sheath lumen and said steps of inflating, deflating and reinflating the positioning balloon occurs through said inflation port.

15. The method according to Claim 14 wherein the puncture member includes a extending radially outwardly from the-puncture member adjacent the distal end of the puncture member wherein the puncture member balloon is moveable from a deflated position to an inflated position, said method further includes the step of inflating the puncture member balloon prior to said step of the puncture member contacting the septum; and

wherein said step of inflating the puncture member balloon includes positioning the puncture member balloon within the sheath lumen and occluding the inflation port thereby permitting the positioning balloon to remain in the inflated position,

more preferably, wherein said step of advancing the puncture member for piercing the septum includes positioning the puncture member balloon distal to the inflation port to deflate the positioning balloon in said step of deflating the positioning balloon.

16. The method according to Claim 9 further comprising at least one of the following:

wherein said step of piercing the septum by the puncture member includes providing an energy source to the puncture member distal tip;

wherein the puncture member includes a center lumen and said method further comprises the step of advancing a transseptal wire within said puncture member lumen to advance to the second side of the septum after said step of reinflating the positioning balloon on the second side of the septum;

wherein said step of performing additional medical procedures includes:

performing a septostomy using the re-inflated positioning balloon, or

advancing the transseptal insertion device to the left atrial appendage, or

advancing the transseptal insertion device to the pulmonary veins, or

advancing the transseptal insertion device to the left ventricle;

wherein said step of reinflating the positioning balloon includes anchoring the transseptal insertion device against the septum second side by applying proximal tension to the device.

17. The method according to Claim 9 further comprising:

the step of positioning the re-inflated positioning balloon beyond the second side of the septum and utilizing the positioning balloon as an occlusion device, or

the step of retracting the puncturing member within said sheath lumen after the septum is pierced and the transseptal insertion device has crossed the septum.

18. The method according to Claim 9 further comprising the step of removing the puncture member from the sheath lumen and utilizing the sheath lumen as a delivery catheter and advancing a medical device along the sheath lumen to advance to the second side of the septum.

19. The method according to claim 19 wherein the medical device advanced is a an occlude device and said method further includes occluding the left atrial.

20. The method according to Claim 19 further comprising the step of advancing the puncturing member beyond said sheath lumen and performing a second piercing step on the second side of the septum.