Claim

1. A catheter assembly, comprising:

a catheter adapter, comprising a wall having a proximal end, a distal end, and a lumen extending therebetween, wherein the distal end comprises a catheter configured to be inserted into vasculature of a patient;

a septum disposed within the lumen; and

a washer disposed within the lumen in proximity to a proximal end of the septum, the washer comprising:

a relaxed state in which the washer comprises a conical shape having an outer margin in contact with the wall of the catheter adapter, and an inner margin positioned distal to the outer margin and in proximity to the septum; and

a stressed stated in which the washer is compressed in a proximal direction such that a lateral distance between the inner and outer margins is decreased,

wherein upon exerting a proximal force on the septum, the septum contacts the inner margin and moves the washer from the relaxed state to the stressed state.

2. The catheter assembly of claim 1, wherein the stressed state of the washer increases a contact force between the outer margin and the wall of the catheter adapter.

3. The catheter assembly of claim 2, wherein the washer is resilient such that in response to removal of the proximal force on the septum , the washer returns to the relaxed state .

4. The catheter assembly of claim 1, wherein the inner margin comprises a plurality of outwardly-extending slots.

5. The catheter assembly of claim 1, wherein the outer margin comprises a plurality of inwardly-extending slots.

6. The catheter assembly of claim 1, further comprising an introducer needle extending through the catheter adapter, wherein the inner margin forms an opening through which the introducer needle extends.