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(54) Title: EXPANDABLE CATHETER SHEATH WITH FOLD

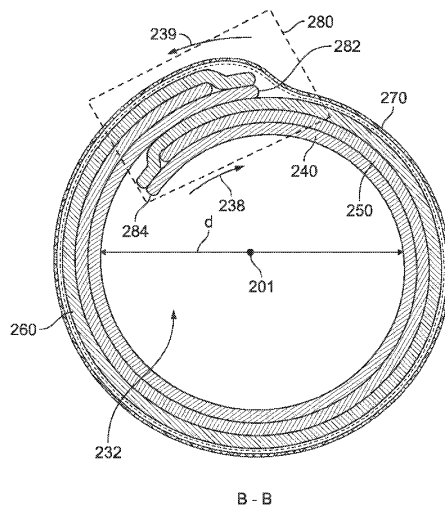


Fig. 4

(57) Abstract: An expandable sheath for insertion of an interventional medical device (e.g., an intracardiac heart pump) into a blood vessel. The sheath has an elongate body having a proximal end, a distal end, and a lumen (232) extending from the proximal end to the distal end. The sheath body has a first layer (240) being a liner defining the lumen (232). The sheath body has a second layer (250) disposed over the first layer (240) and being a patterned structure. The sheath body has a third layer (260) disposed over the second layer (250). The sheath body includes a slit through the second and third layer (250, 260) extending along at least a portion of the sheath body. A first portion of the elongate sheath body overlaps a second portion of the sheath body along the slit to form a fold (280).

[Continued on next page]

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