

Claims

1. An obturator comprising a hollow distal end portion, the distal end portion comprising a distal end and a side hole located proximally of the distal end, the side hole being for receipt of a guidewire and to direct the guidewire laterally from the obturator.
2. An obturator according to claim 1, the distal end portion comprising an end hole for receipt of the guidewire and being located at the distal end.
3. An obturator according to claim 2, wherein the end hole is positioned so that a guidewire extending therethrough extends substantially parallel to a longitudinal axis of the obturator.
4. An obturator according to claim 3, wherein the end hole is offset from the longitudinal axis of the obturator.
5. An obturator according to any preceding claim, wherein the side hole is located on one side of the obturator so that a guidewire extending through the side hole extends at an angle to the obturator.
6. An obturator according to any preceding claim, wherein the distal end portion tapers towards the distal end.
7. An obturator according to claim 5, wherein the side hole is located proximally of the taper.
8. An obturator according to any preceding claim, wherein the side hole has one of a square, rectangular, triangular shape, circular or elliptical.
9. An obturator according to any one of claims 1 to 7, wherein the side hole has a teardrop shape.
10. An obturator according to claim 8, wherein the teardrop shape comprises a distally directed apex.
11. An obturator according to claim 2, further comprising a slit extending between the end hole and side hole.

12. An obturator according to any preceding claim, further comprising one or more orientation indicia positioned on a proximal portion of the obturator to indicate a location of the side hole around on a periphery of the obturator.

13. An obturator according to claim 6, where the taper extends from the side hole to the distal end.

14. A sheath comprising:

a substantially hollow body having a proximal end and a distal end; and

a side hole disposed proximally of the distal end,

so that when the sheath is located in a first bodily lumen, in use, a second bodily lumen can be located by flowing contrast medium the sheath to exit the side hole.

15. A sheath assembly comprising:

a sheath; and

an obturator according to any one of claims 1 to 3.

16. A sheath assembly comprising:

a sheath according to claim 14; and

an obturator.

17. A sheath assembly according to claim 16, wherein the obturator is an obturator according to any one of claims 1 to 13.

18. A sheath assembly according to claim 13, wherein the sheath is a cannula and the obturator is within the sheath.

19. A method for inserting a sheath, comprising threading a sheath assembly according to claim 14 or 15 onto a guidewire and into a bodily lumen of a subject, the guidewire extending into the side hole of the obturator.

20. A method according to claim 19, wherein the sheath is a cannula.

21. A method for repositioning a guidewire, comprising:

threading, onto a guidewire located in a undesired bodily lumen, a sheath assembly comprising a sheath and an obturator according to any one of claims 1 to 13, the guidewire extending through the side hole of the obturator, the side hole being positioned to redirect the guidewire into the desired bodily lumen.

22. A method for repositioning a guidewire, comprising:
- threading, onto a guidewire, a sheath assembly comprising a sheath and an obturator according to claim 2, the guidewire extending through the end hole of the obturator and into a subject;
 - determining the guidewire and sheath extend into a first bodily lumen of the subject;
 - retracting the guidewire into the sheath assembly; and
 - advancing the guidewire through the side hole of the sheath assembly and into a second bodily lumen of the subject.
23. A method for repositioning a sheath, comprising:
- performing the method of claim 21 or 22;
 - retracting the sheath assembly along the guidewire until the obturator becomes generally aligned with the second bodily lumen; and
 - advancing the sheath assembly into the second bodily lumen.
24. A method according to claim 23, wherein the obturator comprises an end hole, a side hole and a slit extending between the end hole and side hole, and retracting the sheath assembly along the guidewire until the obturator becomes generally aligned with the second bodily lumen comprises retracting at least the obturator until the guidewire is captured in the obturator through the slit.
25. A method according to claim 23 or 24, wherein the sheath is a cannula.