CLAIMS

1. A catheter for delivering an electrical stimulus to the body comprising
   i) an elongate shaft;
   ii) a sleeve incorporating one or more electrodes, the sleeve being movable along the elongate shaft such that the position of the sleeve is adjustable; and
   iii) a means to fix the sleeve to the elongate shaft once the sleeve is in position.

2. A catheter as claimed in claim 1 wherein the sleeve is removable from the elongate shaft.

3. A catheter as claimed in claim 1 or claim 2 wherein the elongate shaft incorporates at least one therapeutic or diagnostic function.

4. A catheter as claimed in any of the preceding claims, wherein the sleeve further comprises a position indicator arranged to indicate when the sleeve is correctly positioned on the elongate shaft.

5. A catheter as claimed in claim 4 wherein the position indicator is a visual indicator on the sleeve and/or elongate shaft.

6. A catheter as claimed in any of the preceding claims, wherein the means to fix the sleeve is a reversible means.

7. A catheter as claimed in any of the preceding claims wherein the means to fix the sleeve to the elongate shaft comprises a clip means.

8. A catheter as claimed in claim 7 wherein the clip means is reversible.

9. A catheter as claimed in claimed in any of the preceding claims, wherein the means to fix the sleeve is a compressible seal.

10. A catheter as claimed in any of the preceding claims wherein the means to fix the sleeve to the elongate shaft is located at the proximal end of the sleeve.

11. A catheter as claimed in any of the preceding claims wherein the means to fix the sleeve forms a seal between the sleeve and elongate shaft.

12. A catheter as claimed in any of the preceding claims wherein the sleeve is dimensioned such that when in position it extends to the outside of the body.

13. A catheter as claimed in any of the preceding claims further comprising a means for connecting the electrodes to a power supply.

14. A catheter as claimed in any of the preceding claims further comprising one or more pressure sensors.

15. A catheter as claimed in claim 14 wherein the pressure sensor is for detecting the high pressure zone in the upper oesophagus sphincter of the body.

16. A catheter as claimed in claim 14 or claim 15 wherein the pressure sensor is mounted on the elongate shaft.

17. A catheter as claimed in any of the preceding claims further comprising one or more pH sensors.

18. A catheter as claimed in claim 17 wherein the pH sensor is mounted on the elongate shaft.

19. A catheter as claimed in any of the preceding claims wherein the elongate shaft comprises a feeding tube.

20. A catheter as claimed in claim 19 wherein the feeding tube further comprises an enteral feeding connector.

21. A catheter as claimed in claim 20 wherein the enteral feeding connector is detachable to permit removal of the sleeve.

22. A catheter as claimed in any of the preceding claims wherein the elongate shaft is removable from the body without removal of the sleeve.

23. A catheter as claimed in any of the preceding claims wherein the sleeve is removable from the body without removal of the elongate shaft.

24. A catheter as claimed in any of the preceding claims wherein the elongate shaft and/or sleeve are modified to facilitate movement of the sleeve along elongate shaft.

25. A catheter as claimed any of the preceding claims wherein the sleeve is configured such that when inserted into the body the electrodes are in a suitable position for applying electrical pharyngeal stimulation.

26. A catheter as claimed in any of the preceding claims wherein the wall of the sleeve comprises a lumen carrying a conducting element extending along a length of the sleeve.

27. A catheter as claimed in any of the preceding claims further comprising an electronic chip to store product, patient or treatment information.

28. A catheter as claimed in any of the preceding claims wherein the proximal end of the sleeve comprises a connecter comprising a reversible means to fix the sleeve

29. A catheter as claimed in claim 28 wherein the connector further comprises a means for connecting the electrodes to a power supply.

30. A catheter as claimed in claim 28 or claim 29 wherein the connector is a Y-connector.

31. A catheter as claimed in any of the preceding claims wherein the means to fix the sleeve comprises a resiliently deformable material.

32. A catheter as claimed in any of the preceding claims wherein the catheter is a pharyngeal stimulation catheter.

33. A catheter as claimed in any of the preceding claims for use in delivering an electrical stimulus to the body to assist recovery from dysphagia.

34. A method of delivering an electrical stimulus to the body using a catheter, comprising sliding a sleeve over an elongate shaft of said catheter, said sleeve

comprising one or more electrodes, fixing the sleeve to said elongate shaft once in position and delivering an electrical stimulus through said electrodes.

35. A method according to claim 34 for assisting recovery from dysphagia, wherein said electrical stimulus is capable of inducing pharyngeal stimulation.

36. A method according to claim 34 or 35 wherein the sleeve is removed following delivery of the electrical stimulus.

CLAIMS

1. A pharyngeal stimulation catheter for delivering an electrical stimulus to the body to assist recovery from dysphagia comprising
   i) a feeding tube;
   ii) a sleeve, incorporating one or more electrodes, wherein the sleeve is movable along the feeding tube before the catheter is inserted into the body, such that the position of the sleeve is adjustable; and
   iii) a means to fix the position of the sleeve to the feeding tube once the sleeve is in position,
   wherein the feeding tube and sleeve are configured such that the feeding tube and sleeve are inserted into the body together and the feeding tube can be selectively removed from the body without removal of the sleeve from the body, and/or the sleeve can be selectively removed from the body without removal of the feeding tube from the body.

2. A catheter as claimed in claim 1 wherein the sleeve is removable from the feeding tube.

3. A catheter as claimed in claim 1 or claim 2 wherein the feeding tube incorporates at least one therapeutic or diagnostic function.

4. A catheter as claimed in any one of the preceding claims, wherein the sleeve further comprises a position indicator arranged to indicate when the sleeve is correctly positioned on the feeding tube.

5. A catheter as claimed in claim 4 wherein the position indicator is a visual indicator on the sleeve and/or feeding tube.

6. A catheter as claimed in any one of the preceding claims, wherein the means to fix the sleeve is a reversible means.

7. A catheter as claimed in any one of the preceding claims wherein the means to fix the sleeve to the feeding tube comprises a clip means.

8. A catheter as claimed in claim 7 wherein the clip means is reversible.

9. A catheter as claimed in claimed in any one of the preceding claims, wherein the means to fix the sleeve is a compressible seal.

10. A catheter as claimed in any one of the preceding claims wherein the means to fix the sleeve to the feeding tube is located at the proximal end of the sleeve.

11. A catheter as claimed in any one of the preceding claims wherein the means to fix the sleeve forms a seal between the sleeve and feeding tube.

12. A catheter as claimed in any one of the preceding claims wherein the sleeve is dimensioned such that when in position it extends to the outside of the body.

13. A catheter as claimed in any one of the preceding claims further comprising one or more pressure sensors.

14. A catheter as claimed in any one of the preceding claims wherein the feeding tube is removable from the body without removal of the sleeve.

15. A catheter as claimed in any one of the preceding claims wherein the proximal end of the sleeve comprises a connecter comprising a reversible means to fix the sleeve

16. A catheter as claimed in any one of the preceding claims wherein the means to fix the sleeve comprises a resiliently deformable material.

17. A catheter as claimed in any one of the preceding claims for use in delivering an electrical stimulus to the body to assist recovery from dysphagia.

18. A method of delivering an electrical stimulus to the body using a catheter, comprising sliding a sleeve over an feeding tube of said catheter, said sleeve comprising one or more electrodes, fixing the sleeve to said feeding tube once in position and delivering an electrical stimulus through said electrodes.

19. A method according to claim 18 for assisting recovery from dysphagia, wherein said electrical stimulus is capable of inducing pharyngeal stimulation.

20. A method according to claim 18 or 19 wherein the sleeve is removed following delivery of the electrical stimulus.