

CLAIMS

1. A delivery device to deliver a tubular instrument into a catheter, the delivery device comprising:

the tubular instrument, comprising:

an annular wall comprising a distal end and forming a lumen;

a distal opening within the distal end of the annular wall;

a stripe embedded completely within the annular wall and extending proximally from the distal end of the annular wall, wherein the stripe is co-extruded within the annular wall, wherein the stripe is constructed of a first material, wherein the annular wall is constructed of a second material, wherein the first material has a greater durometer than the second material, with the annular wall and the stripe forming an entirety of the tubular instrument,

wherein the stripe extends proximally within the annular wall from a position proximal to the distal opening to a proximal end of the annular wall, such that a distal-most portion of the annular wall does not include the stripe, and such that the distal-most portion of the annular wall has an increased softness as compared to a remaining proximally-positioned portion of the annular wall having the stripe therein.
2. The delivery device of claim 1, wherein the stripe is aligned with a longitudinal axis of the tubular instrument.
3. The delivery device of claim 1, wherein an outer perimeter of the stripe is surrounded by the annular wall.
4. The delivery device of claim 3, wherein the annular wall comprises an inner surface and an outer surface, wherein the stripe protrude to form a rib on the outer surface.

5. The delivery device of claim 3, wherein the annular wall comprises an inner surface and an outer surface, wherein the stripe protrudes to form a rib on the inner surface.
6. The delivery device of claim 1, further comprising a plurality of stripes, wherein the stripe is one of a plurality of stripes, wherein the plurality of stripes are evenly spaced around the annular wall.
7. The delivery device of claim 1, wherein the stripe extends proximally from the distal opening.
8. The delivery device of claim 1, wherein the stripe comprises a wire configured to hold the tubular instrument in a curved position.