COLLAPSIBLE CATHETER

Abstract

An intravascular system includes an introducer sheath with fixed-diameter lumen, a medical device, and a catheter with a proximal end and a distal end coupled to the first medical device. When the catheter is positioned within the introducer sheath, an annular gap is formed between an exterior circumference of the catheter and an inner circumference of the lumen. The catheter is configured to take different dimensional configurations, such that the sizes of the catheter and the annular gap are variable. The variability of the size of the catheter allows another medical device to pass through the annular gap within the lumen. The catheter may change configurations passively as the second medical device is passed adjacently or by an active mechanism under a physician's control.

[Fig. 1A & 1B]