Abstract: A catheter having a multi-chamber balloon (32) which includes a first chamber (34) having a globular configuration and an adjacent second chamber (36) having a generally cylindrical body portion are sequentially inflatable so when employed to enlarge an opening through a stent deployed at a bifurcation the stent is supported around the circumference of the side-branch opening while the stent wall opening is being enlarged.
BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

Stents and other radially expandable endoprostheses are typically implanted transluminally and enlarged radially after being introduced percutaneously. Such endoprostheses may be implanted in a variety of body lumens or vessels such as within the vascular system, urinary tracts, bile ducts, fallopian tubes, coronary vessels, secondary vessels, etc. Some may be used to reinforce body vessels and/or to prevent restenosis following angioplasty in the vascular system. They may be self-expanding, expanded by an internal radial force, such as when mounted on a balloon, or a combination of self-expanding and balloon expandable (hybrid expandable).

Within the vasculature it is not uncommon for stenoses to form at a vessel bifurcation. A bifurcation is an area of the vasculature or other portion of the body where a first component vessel divides into two or more component vessels. Where a stenotic lesion or lesions form at such a bifurcation, the lesion(s) can affect one, two or all three of the involved vessels.

Many of the stents that have been disclosed for deployment at bifurcations are deployed as a first stent, extending from one component vessel into a second, crossing the vessel opening ("ostium") into the third vessel. After the stent has been deployed, an opening in the stent side-wall disposed at the ostium can then be enlarged by placing a balloon therethrough and expanding the balloon. This opening enlargement facilitates fluid flow into or from the third vessel. If needed, a second stent may also be placed in the third vessel. For a variation of this procedure, many stent configurations have been designed which have a specialized side-branch opening through which the opening into the third vessel may be provided. Often such designs include a portion of the first stent which is displaced into and against the side-wall of the third vessel for a
short distance beyond the ostium.

In such stent placement procedures the balloon used to provide enlargement of the side-wall opening may be a conventional cylindrical balloon, or a stepped balloon having two cylindrical portions the distal portion typically having a smaller diameter than the proximal portion. However, use of these balloons has not always been fully satisfactory. For instance, in some applications the side-wall opening enlargement has been observed to cause an inward displacement of a portion of the stent into the second vessel flow channel, thereby potentially facilitating restenosis or otherwise disrupting the flow in the second vessel.

BRIEF SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

The present invention is directed to a balloon configuration developed particularly for performing a side-wall opening enlargement procedure which has a substantially reduced likelihood of producing such inward displacement. In some embodiments the invention pertains to a multi-chamber balloon which includes a first chamber having a globular configuration and an adjacent second chamber having a generally cylindrical body portion. When mounted on a catheter the chambers are sequentially inflatable so when employed to enlarge an opening through a stent deployed at a bifurcation the stent is supported around the circumference of the side-branch opening while the stent wall opening is being enlarged.

In one aspect the invention pertains to a medical device balloon, the balloon having a longitudinal axis and comprising:

a first chamber having a globular configuration with a maximum perpendicular dimension (D1) taken in a plane perpendicular to the longitudinal axis of the balloon and an axial length (D3) which is not more than about 20% greater than the maximum perpendicular dimension (D1), and

an adjacent second chamber having a generally cylindrical body portion which has a diameter (D2) which is less than the first chamber diameter axial length (D3).

In another aspect the invention pertains to a catheter having such balloons mounted thereon. Such catheters being particularly suited to enlarging a side-wall opening in a stent that has been placed at a bifurcation.
In still further aspect the invention pertains to a method for deploying a stent having at least one side-wall opening at a bifurcation comprising first, second and third vessels, a channel between the first and second vessels and an ostium into the third vessel, the method comprising:

5 deploying the stent in said channel between the first and second vessels to engage the vessel walls thereof and cross the ostium with a side-wall opening facing the ostium and

enlarging said stent side-wall opening facing the ostium by passing a balloon catheter through the stent side-wall opening and into the third vessel such that the catheter balloon crosses the stent side-wall opening and then expanding the balloon, wherein the balloon catheter employed to enlarge the stent opening has a balloon as described herein mounted thereon.

These and other aspects of the invention are described further in the description, figures and claims which follow.

15 BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE SEVERAL VIEWS OF THE DRAWING(S)

FIG. 1 is a longitudinal side sectional view of a vessel bifurcation illustrating a prior art process for enlarging a stent side-wall opening.

FIG. 2 is a side view of a catheter distal portion on which is mounted a balloon according to one embodiment of the invention.

FIG. 3 is a longitudinal side sectional view of a vessel bifurcation illustrating an inventive process for enlarging a stent side-wall opening using the catheter of Fig 2, with the balloon partially inflated.

FIG. 4 is view as in Fig. 3 with the balloon fully inflated.

FIG. 5 is a view as in Fig. 3 employing a catheter having a balloon according to an alternate embodiment of the invention.

FIG. 6 is a view as in Fig. 5 with the balloon fully inflated.

FIG. 7 is a view of a catheter distal portion as in Fig. 2 but with a further alternate embodiment of a balloon of the invention.

30 DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE INVENTION

While this invention may be embodied in many different forms, there are described in detail herein specific embodiments of the invention. This description is an
exemplification of the principles of the invention and is not intended to limit the invention to the particular embodiments illustrated.

For the purposes of this disclosure, like reference numerals in the figures shall be taken as referring to like features unless otherwise indicated. All US patents and applications and all other published documents mentioned anywhere in this application are incorporated herein by reference in their entirety.

Referring first to a depiction of prior art, a bifurcated blood vessel is shown in FIG. 1. Components of the bifurcation are first vessel 6, second vessel 8 and third vessel 10. In this particular embodiment the first and second vessels taken together form a main channel with the third vessel forming a branch vessel having an opening 11 to the main channel, but there is no particular requirement that the bifurcation form distinct main and side channels. At one side of the opening 11 (the ostium), between the vessels 8 and 10, is a carina region 12. A stent 14 is deployed at the bifurcation, extending from the first vessel into second vessel and crossing the ostium. In accordance with a prior art procedure as previously described a guide wire 15 has been passed through the first vessel into the third vessel passing through the side-wall opening 17 of the stent 14 and a catheter 16 provided thereover. The catheter 16 has a balloon 18 that crosses between the first and second vessels and has been inflated to expand the side-wall opening 17. In this particular depiction a portion 20 of the stent side-wall is configured to extend into the third vessel channel when the balloon 18 is inflated in the side-wall opening, but such a configuration is not a necessary feature of stents employed in the process.

Figure 1 shows that the expansion of the balloon 18 through the stent side-wall has caused an inward displacement of a portion 22 of the stent away from the carina 12. The stent portion 22 has moved into the flow channel of the second vessel, thereby potentially facilitating restenosis or otherwise disrupting the flow in the second vessel.

Figure 2 shows a configuration for a catheter 30 of the invention having a balloon 32 of the present invention mounted thereon. Balloon 32 includes two adjacent portions 34, 36 that are separately inflatable. Separate lumens 38, 40 are provided in catheter 30 for inflation of the respective balloon portions 34, 36. A common wall 42 is provided at the junction between portions 34 and 36.

Portion 34 of the balloon 34 has a globular shape, for instance it may be
spherical or generally spherical. Balloon portion 36 has a generally cylindrical configuration. The portions are sized relative to each other such that a maximum perpendicular dimension D1 taken in a plane perpendicular to the axis of the balloon, is larger than the dimension D2, corresponding to the diameter of the cylindrical portion 36 and larger than the major dimension of the ostium of the branch opening across which the stent is to be placed. D3, the longitudinal length of the globular portion, may be somewhat less than D1 due to truncation at one or both ends of the globular portion 34 along the balloon axis, but is suitably at least slightly larger than the diameter of the first stent after vessel placement and also larger than the diameter D2 of the cylindrical portion 36.

Truncation of the axial length of portion 34 occurs at least at the junction with portion 36. The balloon portion 34 at its proximal end is preferably, but not necessarily, mounted on the catheter in everted fashion to facilitate the angular bending of the catheter into the side branch. In at least some embodiments an inverted conical portion 46 is provided to further assist the catheter bending into the side branch truncating the axial length of portion 34 somewhat at the proximal end as well.

At the junction between balloon portions a neck region 48 occurs where the balloon transitions between portion 36 to 34. In at least some embodiments the inflated balloon diameter at neck 48 is less than D2.

Catheter 30 has an inner shaft 44 that extends through both balloon portions to provide a guide wire lumen. Radiopaque markers 46 may be provided to facilitate fluoroscopic location of the catheter in processing. In some embodiments such markers may be provided along the inner shaft within the globular portion 34 of the balloon 36, for instance near the longitudinal center thereof, and within the cylindrical portion, for instance near the ends of the cylindrical portion. Other locations may be marked in addition or in alternative to these locations.

Figure 3 is a view similar to that of Figure 1, but with a catheter 30 of the invention extending through the stent side-wall into the side channel. Portion 34 of the balloon 32 has been partially inflated, but portion 36 remains uninflated and so the stent side-wall opening has not been enlarged.

Figure 4 is a view as in Fig. 3, but with both balloon portions fully inflated. The stent is engaged circumferentially around the ostium by the larger size of the balloon portion 34, including the stent portion in the vicinity of the carina 12. Thus
the balloon supports the carina and minimizes or eliminates inward deflection of the stent 14 into the flow path of the second vessel, solving the problem of the prior art procedure.

Subsequent to the deployment of the catheter 30 to enlarge the stent opening the balloon sections are deflated and the catheter is removed. If desired a second stent may be placed in the third vessel 10.

Figures 5 and 6 are views as in Figures 3 and 4, respectively, depicting an alternate embodiment of the invention. The catheter 60 is provided with a single balloon inflation lumen 62 which opens into globular balloon portion 64 of the balloon 65. A separate lumen is not provided to the cylindrical portion 66 of the balloon 65. Instead a small opening 68 in the wall 70 between portions 64 and 66 is provided so that inflation of portion 66 is accomplished through the single lumen. Suitably the opening is sized so that inflation of portion 66 occurs at a delayed sequence relative to portion 64 as the balloon is pressurized. Such a delay sequence allows portion 64 to supportively engage the stent in the region of the carina 12 as the stent opening is enlarged in a manner similar to that of the balloon 32 of the previous embodiment. In some embodiments the opening 68 may be provided as a pressure responsive valve (not shown) which opens only when the pressure in portion 34 reaches a minimum pressure, for instance 4-10 atm.

Figure 7 is a view similar to Figure 2 showing another variation of the invention balloon 82 mounted on the catheter 80. In Figure 7, at the junction between the two balloon portions 84 and 86, the indented neck 88 is formed with a fixed diameter when the balloon is inflated that is less the diameter D2 of the cylindrical portion. The fixed diameter configuration of neck 88 may be formed by molding or the like.

The necks 48 and 88 in Figures 2 and 7, respectively, may facilitate a secure engagement of the stent in the carina region 12 by the globular portion 34 as the cylindrical portion inflates and enlarges the stent wall opening and/or facilitate self-centering of the globular portion around the circumference of the bifurcation ostium.

Referring again to Figures 2 and 7, exemplary dimensions are taken at a nominal inflation pressure, suitably about 2 to about 6 atm, for instance 4 atm. Without limitation, D2 may be from about 1 mm to about 20 mm. In some embodiments D1 may be for instance from 10-50% larger than D2. In some embodiments the shoulder 48 in Fig. 2 or formed neck 88 are indented for instance to a minimum diameter which is 2-20% less than D2.
In the embodiments shown in the figures the globular portions 34, 64 or 84 of the balloons of the invention are substantially spherical with truncations along the axial axis which render the axial length D3 less than the maximum perpendicular dimension D1. In other embodiments the overall shape of the balloon may be more ellipsoid or ovoid than spherical. In such embodiments, however, the axial length suitably will not more than about 20% greater than the maximum perpendicular dimension D1 and more suitably will be equal or less than the D1 dimension. Also suitably the D3 dimension will be larger than the diameter (D2) of the cylindrical portion of such balloons. Likewise, in use, a balloon size will be selected in which the axial length D3 of the globular portion is greater than the diameter of the stent as deployed.

The balloon may be made of known balloon polymer materials. Examples of known materials include polyesters, polyolefins, nylons, polyurethanes and various block copolymers. Exemplary documents describing suitable materials which may be employed in the invention include: US 4,490,421 Levy, and US 5,264,260, Saab, which describe PET balloons; US 4,906,244, Pinchuk et al, and US 5,328,468, Kaneko, which describe polyamide balloons; US 4,950,239, Gahara, and US 5,500,180, Anderson et al which describe balloons made from polyurethanes; US 5,556,383, Wang et al, and US 6,146,356, Wang et al, which describe balloons made from polyether-block-amide copolymers and polyester-block-ether copolymers; US 6,270,522, Simhambhatla, et al, describes balloons made from polyester-block-ether copolymers; US 5,344,400, Kaneko, which describes balloons made from polyarylene sulfide; US 5,833,657, Reinhart et al, describes balloons having a layer of polyether ether ketone. All of these balloons are produced from extruded tubing of the polymeric material by a blow-forming radial expansion process. US 5,250,069, Nobuyoshi et al, US 5,797,877, Hamilton et al, and US 5,270,086, Hamlin, describe still further materials which may be used to make such balloons. Physical blends and copolymers of such materials may also be used.

The balloon may be a laminate of two or more layers of the same or different polymers or blends of polymers as described above. Moreover the two balloon portions 34 and 36 may be made of the same or different polymers, blends or laminates.

In some embodiments, exemplary configurations of a stent body may be as described in the following patents: US 6,746,479; US 6,478,816; US 6,471,720; US 6,334,870; US 6,261,319; US 6,818,014; US 6,348,065; US 5,922,021; US 6,235,053;
US 6,835,203; US 6,210,429 and/or US 6,123,721, the entire contents of each of which are incorporated herein by reference. US patent applications, also incorporated herein by reference in their entirety, that describe various stents for deployment at bifurcations or systems for deploying stents at bifurcations include:

5 US Application No. 11/1 55155, filed 6/17/2005, titled "Bifurcation Stent Assembly";
US 20040138736, titled "Bifurcated stent";
US 20050192656, titled "Bifurcated Stent Delivery System";
US 20050154442, titled "Bifurcated stent delivery system";
US 20050149161, titled "Edge protection and bifurcated stent delivery system";
US 200501 9731, titled "Bifurcated stent and delivery system";
US 20040172121, titled "Rotating balloon expandable sheath bifurcation delivery";
US 20040138736, titled "Bifurcated stent";
US 20040088007, titled "Assymmetric bifurcated crown";
US 20030097169, titled "Bifurcated stent and delivery system";
US 20020193873, titled "Bifurcated stent and delivery system";
US 20020173840, titled "Bifurcated stent";
US 20030195606, titled "Bifurcation stent system and method";
US 20040138732, titled "Apparatus and method for stenting bifurcation lesions";
US 20050015108, titled "Catheter Balloon Systems and Methods"; and
US 20060064064, titled "Two-step/dual-diameter balloon angioplasty catheter for bifurcation and side-branch vascular anatomy."

Stents as depicted in the foregoing published applications may also be employed. Initial deployment of the stent into a vessel bifurcation may be achieved in a variety of ways as described in any of the foregoing patents or published applications or by other techniques known in the art.

The stent may be made from any suitable biocompatible materials including one or more polymers, one or more metals or combinations of polymer(s) and metal(s). Examples of suitable materials include biodegradable materials that are also biocompatible. Suitable biodegradable materials include polylactic acid, polyglycolic acid (PGA), collagen or other connective proteins or natural materials, polycaprolactone, hyaluronic acid, adhesive proteins, co-polymers of these materials as well as composites and combinations thereof and combinations of other biodegradable polymers. Other polymers that may be used include polyester and polycarbonate copolymers. Examples of suitable metals include, but are not limited to, stainless steel, titanium, tantalum, platinum, tungsten, gold and alloys of any of the above-mentioned metals. Examples of suitable alloys include platinum-iridium alloys, cobalt-chromium alloys including Elgiloy and Phynox, MP35N alloy and nickel-titanium alloys, for example, Nitinol. At
least a portion of the stent may be provided with material or thickness that enhances the radiopacity of the stent.

One or both of the first and second stents employed in the invention may carry one or more therapeutic agents which may be drugs or other pharmaceutical products for release at the site of deployment. The therapeutic agent may be, for instance, an anti-thrombogenic agent, vascular cell growth promoter, growth factor inhibitors, antibiotics, DNA, RNA, proteins, polysaccharides, heparin, dexamethasone, Paclitaxel, Zotarolimus, Sirolimus (i.e. rapamycin), Everolimus, phosphorylcholine, 17beta-estradiol, curcumin, malononitrilamide (e.g. malononitrilamide FK778), statins (e.g. fmvastatin), eptifibatide, irinotecan, triclosan, integrin-binding cyclic Arg-Gly-Asp peptide, cytochalasin D, mitoxantrone, carvedilol, alpha-1-antitrypsin (AAT), methotrexate, methylprednisolone, controlled release nitrogen oxide donor, tumor necrosis factor-alpha antibody, ciprofloxacin, Argatroban, angiopeptin, etc. The therapeutic agent may be carried in a coating, for instance a polystyrene-polyisobutylene-polystyrene triblock copolymer (SIBS), polyethylene oxide, silicone rubber and/or any other suitable coating material or it may be embedded or otherwise entrained in the stent structure.

The stent may be created by methods including cutting or etching a design from a tubular stock, from a flat sheet which is cut or etched and which is subsequently rolled or from one or more interwoven wires or braids. Any other suitable technique which is known in the art or which is subsequently developed may also be used to manufacture the stent employed in the invention.

In another alternative embodiment the catheter upon which the balloon of the invention is mounted may be a fixed wire catheter or other type of catheter that is capable of being advanced through the vasculature or other body lumen(s).

In embodiments where the assembly comprises one or more therapeutic agents, an agent or agents present on the stent may be similar or different to the agent or agents which may be present on the flap. The dosage of the agents on the stent and/or flap may vary or be different on different portions of the assembly.

The above examples and disclosure are intended to be illustrative and not exhaustive. These examples and description will suggest many variations and alternatives to one of ordinary skill in this art. All these alternatives and variations are intended to be included within the scope of the claims, where the term "comprising"
means "including, but not limited to." Those familiar with the art may recognize other equivalents to the specific embodiments described herein which equivalents are also intended to be encompassed by the claims. Further, the particular features presented in the dependent claims can be combined with each other in other manners within the scope of the invention such that the invention should be recognized as also specifically directed to other embodiments having any other possible combination of the features of the dependent claims. For instance, for purposes of claim publication, any dependent claim which follows should be taken as alternatively written in a multiple dependent form from all claims which possess all antecedents referenced in such dependent claim if such multiple dependent format is an accepted format within the jurisdiction. In jurisdictions where multiple dependent claim formats are restricted, the following dependent claims should each be also taken as alternatively written in each singly dependent claim format which creates a dependency from an antecedent-possessing claim other than the specific claim listed in such dependent claim.

This PCT application claims priority from US Application No. 11/592,365, filed on November 3, 2006, the entire contents of which is hereby incorporated by reference.
CLAIMS

1. A medical device balloon, the balloon having a longitudinal axis and comprising:
   a first chamber having a globular configuration with a maximum perpendicular dimension (D1) taken in a plane perpendicular to the longitudinal axis of the balloon and an axial length (D3) which is not more than about 20% greater than the maximum perpendicular dimension (D1), and
   an adjacent second chamber having a generally cylindrical body portion which has a diameter (D2) which is less than the first chamber diameter axial length (D3).

2. A medical device balloon as in claim 1 wherein the first chamber has an inwardly inverted conical portion disposed at a generally diametrical opposed location relative to the second chamber.

3. A medical device balloon as in claim 1 wherein the globular configuration of the first chamber is generally spherical.

4. A medical device balloon as in claim 1 wherein the first and second chambers are separated by a imperforate wall.

5. A medical device balloon as in claim 1 wherein the first and second chambers are separated by a wall having one or more perforations or pressure openable valves.

6. A medical device balloon as in claim 1 having an exterior surface and a junction on the exterior surface where the two chambers meet.

7. A medical device balloon as in claim 6 wherein the junction is a circumferential neck which has a diameter less than the diameter (D2) of the second chamber.
8. A medical device balloon as in claim 6 wherein the junction is a neck portion having a minimum perpendicular dimension taken in a plane perpendicular to the longitudinal axis of the balloon that is less the diameter of the second balloon portion.

9. A catheter having a balloon as in claim 1 mounted on a distal portion thereof.

10. A catheter as in claim 9 further comprising separate inflation lumens for each of the first and second chambers.

11. A catheter as in claim 9 further comprising a guide wire lumen passing through the balloon.

12. A catheter as in claim 9 configured as a fixed wire catheter.

13. A catheter as in claim 9 having a single inflation lumen opening into the balloon first chamber and wherein the first and second chambers of the balloon are separated by a wall having one or more perforations or pressure openable valves therein.

14. A catheter as in claim 9 wherein the first chamber has at least a proximal end mounted on the catheter in everted form.

15. A catheter as in claim 9 wherein the first chamber has an inwardly inverted conical portion at its proximal end.

16. A catheter as in claim 9 wherein the globular configuration of the first chamber is generally spherical.

17. A catheter as in claim 9 wherein the globular configuration of the first chamber is generally ellipsoidal or ovoid.
18. A method for deploying a stent having at least one side-wall opening at a
bifurcation comprising first, second and third vessels, a channel between the first and
second vessels and an ostium into the third vessel, the method comprising:

deploying the stent in said channel between the first and second vessels to
engage the vessel walls thereof and cross the ostium with a side-wall opening facing the
ostium and

enlarging said stent side-wall opening facing the ostium by passing a
balloon catheter through the stent side-wall opening and into the third vessel such that
the catheter balloon crosses the stent side-wall opening and then expanding the balloon,
wherein the balloon catheter is a catheter as in claim 9.

19. A method as in claim 18 wherein when the balloon is expanded the first
chamber is located in the interior of the stent and the second chamber crosses the stent
side-wall and enters the third vessel.

20. A method as in claim 18 wherein the first and second chambers of the
balloon are expanded sequentially so that the first chamber is substantially fully inflated
before the second chamber is expanded sufficiently to substantially enlarge the stent
side-wall opening.

21. A method as in claim 19 wherein the balloon has an exterior surface and a
junction on the exterior surface where the two chambers meet and when the balloon is
expanded it is located so that the junction engages the stent side-wall opening and the
first chamber supports the stent from deflecting into said channel as the side-wall
opening is enlarged.
A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER
INV. A61F2/06 A61M25/10 A61F2/84
According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classification and IPG

B. FIELDS SEARCHED
Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols)
A61F A61M

Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched

Electronic data base consulted during the international search (name of data base and, where practical, search terms used)
EPO-Internal, WPI Data

C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

<table>
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<th>Category</th>
<th>Citation of document with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages</th>
<th>Relevant to claim No</th>
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Date of the actual completion of the international search
17 January 2008

Date of mailing of the international search report
30/01/2008

Name and mailing address of the ISA
European Patent Office, P B 5818 Patentlaan 2 NL - 2280 HV RIJSWIJK
Tel (+31-70) 340-2040, Tx 31 651 epo nl, Fax (+31-70) 340-3016

Authorized officer
Rodrigues, Elodie
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<td>X</td>
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<td>EP 1 512 381 A (CORDIS CORP [US]) 9 March 2005 (2005-03-09) figure 9 columns 8,9</td>
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### Observations where certain claims were found unsearchable

This international search report has not been established in respect of certain claims under Article 17(2)(a) for the following reasons:

1. **Claims Nos.: 18-21**
   - because they relate to subject matter not required to be searched by this Authority, namely:
     - see FURTHER INFORMATION sheet PCT/ISA/210

2. **Claims Nos.:**
   - because they relate to parts of the international application that do not comply with the prescribed requirements to such an extent that no meaningful international search can be carried out, specifically:

3. **Claims Nos.:**
   - because they are dependent claims and are not drafted in accordance with the second and third sentences of Rule 6.4(a).

### Observations where unity of invention is lacking

This International Searching Authority found multiple inventions in this international application, as follows:

1. **As all required additional search fees were timely paid by the applicant, this international search report covers all searchable claims.**

2. **As all searchable claims could be searched without effort justifying an additional fees, this Authority did not invite payment of additional fees.**

3. **As only some of the required additional search fees were timely paid by the applicant, this international search report covers only those claims for which fees were paid, specifically claims Nos.:**

4. **No required additional search fees were timely paid by the applicant. Consequently, this international search report is restricted to the invention first mentioned in the claims; it is covered by claims Nos.:**

### Remark on Protest

- The additional search fees were accompanied by the applicant's protest and, where applicable, the payment of a protest fee.
- The additional search fees were accompanied by the applicant's protest but the applicable protest fee was not paid within the time limit specified in the invitation.
- No protest accompanied the payment of additional search fees.
Continuation of Box II.1

Claims Nos.: 18-21

Rule 39.1(iv) PCT - Method for treatment of the human or animal body by surgery

The methods for deploying a stent having at least one side-wall opening at a bifurcation described in claims 18-21 imply the steps of forming an opening in a body vessel and inserting a stent deploying device in said body vessel opening in order to be able to deploy the stent as explicitly described in these claims. These methods are thus considered surgical methods.
<table>
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