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<p>(21) International Application Number: PCT/IE00/00011 (22) International Filing Date: 28 January 2000 (28.01.00) (30) Priority Data: 990058 28 January 1999 (28.01.99) IE (71) Applicant (for all designated States except US): ADAM SPENCE EUROPE LIMITED [IE/IE]; 1 Earlsfort Centre, Hatch Street, Dublin 2 (IE). (72) Inventors; and (75) Inventors/Applicants (for US only): MULHOLLAND, Patrick [IE/IE]; Ladestown, Mullingar, County Westmeath (IE). O'CARROLL, Gerard [IE/IE]; Castlebaldwin, County Sligo (IE). CONLON, Dominic [IE/IE]; Geevagh, County Sligo (IE). (74) Agents: O'BRIEN, John, A. et al.; John A O'Brien &amp; Associates, Duncairn House, 3rd floor, 14 Carysfort Avenue, Blackrock, County Dublin (IE).</p>	<p>(81) Designated States: AE, AL, AM, AT, AU, AZ, BA, BB, BG, BR, BY, CA, CH, CN, CR, CU, CZ, DE, DK, DM, EE, ES, FI, GB, GD, GE, GH, GM, HR, HU, ID, IL, IN, IS, JP, KE, KG, KP, KR, KZ, LC, LK, LR, LS, LT, LU, LV, MA, MD, MG, MK, MN, MW, MX, NO, NZ, PL, PT, RO, RU, SD, SE, SG, SI, SK, SL, TJ, TM, TR, TT, TZ, UA, UG, US, UZ, VN, YU, ZA, ZW, ARIPO patent (GH, GM, KE, LS, MW, SD, SL, SZ, TZ, UG, ZW), Eurasian patent (AM, AZ, BY, KG, KZ, MD, RU, TJ, TM), European patent (AT, BE, CH, CY, DE, DK, ES, FI, FR, GB, GR, IE, IT, LU, MC, NL, PT, SE), OAPI patent (BF, BJ, CF, CG, CI, CM, GA, GN, GW, ML, MR, NE, SN, TD, TG).</p> <p><b>Published</b> <i>With international search report.</i></p>	
<p>(54) Title: CATHETER WITH AN EXPANDABLE END PORTION</p>		
<p>(57) Abstract</p> <p>A catheter (2) is used in medical applications, for example for the retrieval of a sample from a patient or the insertion or retrieval of medical devices such as filters, stents (3) to and from the patient. The catheter (2) includes an expandable tip (6) at a leading portion of a catheter tube portion (5). This expandable tip (6) can retrieve or deliver samples, medical devices, etc. (3), which are slightly larger than the dimensions of a main catheter tube (5) inserted into the patient. The expandable tip (6) can also include extension members (10) which provide axial support to the expandable tip (6) but which still allow expansion in the radial direction.</p>		

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