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- (71) Applicant: **COOK MEDICAL TECHNOLOGIES LLC** [US/US]; 750 N. Daniels Way, Bloomington, IN 47404 (US).
- (72) Inventors: **AGGERHOLM, Steen**; Bjaelkerupvej 100a, DK-4660 Heddinge (DK). **LYSGAARD, Thomas**; Melle-mvang 13, DK-2680 Solroed (DK).
- (74) Agent: **STANLEY, Richard, E.**; Brinks Hofer Gilson & Lione, P.o. Box 10087, Chicago, IL 60610 (US).
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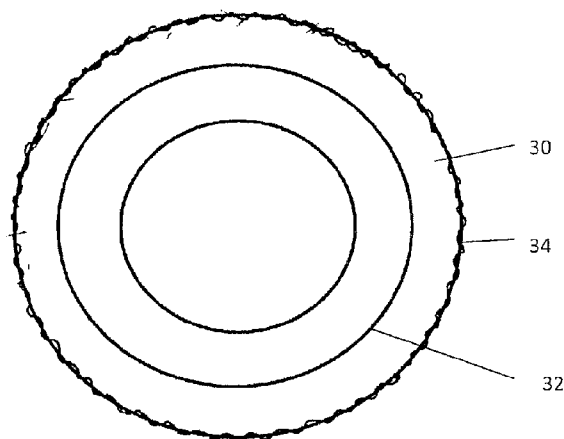
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(54) Title: HIGH STRENGTH RADIOPAQUE BALLOON



(57) Abstract: A balloon catheter (10) includes a balloon (12) which is both of high strength and radiopaque. The balloon (12) includes an outer strengthened layer (30) which includes a strengthening element (34) at least partially embedded within the layer (30). Concentrically within the strengthened layer (30) there is a radiopaque layer (32) which includes a high concentration of radiopaque material distributed in the radiopaque layer (32). The strengthened layer (30) acts as a support to the radiopaque layer (32) which is otherwise be unable to withstand the pressure to which the balloon (12) is normally inflated for deployment and in the course of a medical procedure. The structure provides a high strength radiopaque balloon with a relatively thin balloon wall optimizing balloon flexibility and wrapability. There is also disclosed a method of making a balloon which uses an internal support layer in a raw tubing which is then removed following formation of a balloon.

Fig. 3



INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

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A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER
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 Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols)
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Category*	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
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X	US 2010/234875 A1 (ALLEX STEVEN J [US] ET AL) 16 September 2010 (2010-09-16) page 1, paragraph 3 page 1, paragraph 13 - page 8, paragraph 79; figures 1-7	1-22
X	JP 2000 070375 A (TOGO MEDIKIT KK) 7 March 2000 (2000-03-07) abstract; figures 1-11	1,2,6,17,18
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Further documents are listed in the continuation of Box C.

See patent family annex.

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C(Continuation). DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT		
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Information on patent family members

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