

distal end of said outer sheath when positioned in said first passage of said outer sheath, and a second passage extending longitudinally therethrough and including a second cross-sectional shape smaller than said first cross-sectional shape of said first passage, said second tapered distal end having an outermost cross-sectional shape proximate said first cross-sectional shape of said first passage and decreasing in size from said first cross-sectional shape of said first passage to said second cross-sectional shape of said second passage;

providing an introducer guide having a third cross-sectional shape proximate said second cross-sectional shape of said second passage of said dilator;

positioning said dilator in said first passage of said outer sheath with said second tapered distal end of said dilator extending from said first tapered distal end of said outer sheath;

inserting said introducer guide through said second passageway of said dilator;

orally inserting a distal end of said introducer guide through an esophagus and into a stomach of a patient;

orally introducing said outer sheath and said dilator over said introducer guide into the esophagus of the patient; and

removing said dilator and said introducer guide from the patient when the outer sheath is positioned in the esophagus of the patient.

16. The method of claim 15 further comprising the step of introducing a large specified instrument through the outer sheath into the esophagus of the patient.

17. The method of claim 15 further comprising the steps of:

providing a mouthpiece positioned in said first passage proximate said proximal end of said outer sheath;

providing a connector fitting positioned in said second passage proximate said proximal end of said dilator; and

interconnecting said mouthpiece and said connector fitting.

18. The method of claim 15 further comprising the step of providing said dilator with an inner sheath of a flexible material, said inner sheath having an outermost cross-sectional dimension substantially less than an outermost dimension of said first cross-sectional shape of said first passage of said outer sheath.

* * * * *

30

35

40

45

50

55

60

65