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introducing a device through the sheath to the target lumen or body cavity;
withdrawing the sheath over the device which remains in place;
removing a transition element from a proximal end of the sheath; and
splitting the sheath after the transition element had

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been removed, whereby the transition element is left in place on the device.

15. A method as in claim 14, wherein the transition element is a sealing valve.

5 16. A method as in claim 14, wherein the transition element had been threadably secured to the proximal end of the sheath.

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