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- [54] **HYDROPHILIC STENT**
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Related U.S. Application Data

- [63] Continuation of Ser. No. 477,264, Feb. 8, 1990, abandoned.
- [51] Int. Cl.⁵ **A61M 29/02**
- [52] U.S. Cl. **606/194; 623/1; 604/96**
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[57] ABSTRACT

A stent for placement within a body lumen and comprising a wall structure wherein at least a portion thereof is a hollow wall. The hollow wall has disposed therein a hydrophilic material which can be in the form of a gel, for example, which swells upon introduction of a liquid into the hollow wall to thereby achieve inflation thereof. The hollow wall is fabricated of a semi-permeable membrane whereby fluid from tissues surrounding the stent at the site of placement can pass through the membrane and swell the hydrophilic material to thereby inflate the hollow wall. A drug can be disposed with the hydrophilic material for release through the membrane at the site of stent placement. The entire wall structure of the stent can be a hollow wall, or the wall structure can incorporate both hollow and non-hollow wall portions such as hollow and solid fibers which are braided, woven or wound together.

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12 Claims, 1 Drawing Sheet

