

EDDIE'S CORNER



With more than three decades in the industry, Eddie Garcés, vice president of Olympus Medical Equipment Services America, is our resident guru on all facets of service and repair.

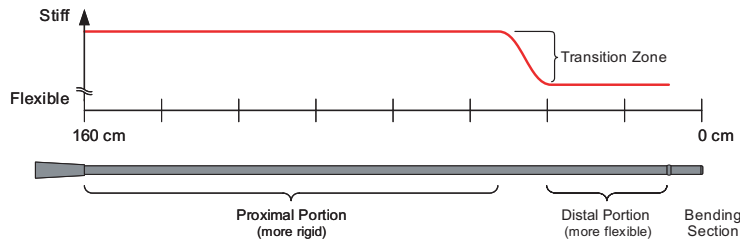
like steering a car with a wide turning radius—or so floppy they behave like a wet noodle. The beauty of the Olympus design is that it gives the endoscopist the best of both worlds without compromising the safety, reliability or performance of the instrument.

Unlike generic third-party insertion tubes, the Olympus design represents more than 30 years of innovative engineering that reflects the insight of the world's leading gastroenterol-

Sometimes Beauty is Skin Deep

The internal architecture of third-party colonoscope insertion tubes we've studied differs significantly from Olympus originals. The same holds true for the exterior, or skin if you will, of the insertion tube. The flexibility of the outer-most layer of an Olympus insertion tube is varied throughout its length, with the distal end being significantly more flexible than the proximal portion of the tube, providing the endoscopist with optimal levels of both flexibility and control.

To create this variation, the formulation of the Olympus tube's outer polymer layer is changed as it is extruded over the wire mesh during manufacturing. A softer resin is applied to the distal end and gradually mixed with increasing amounts of a harder resin toward the proximal end. This proprietary polymer mix is designed to work with the Olympus insertion tube's underlying architecture. The softer distal portion allows atraumatic navigation of the colon while the increasingly stiffer proximal end provides

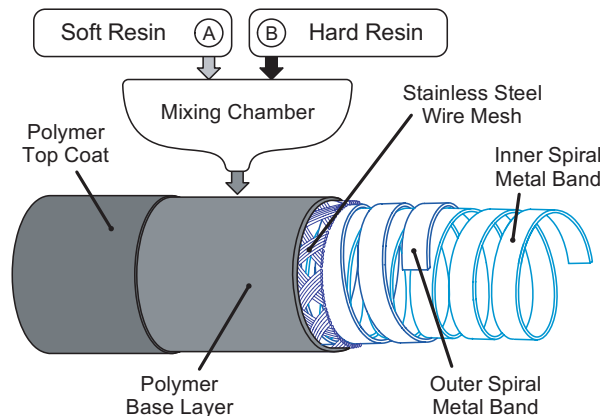


maximum control—control necessary for guiding the instrument and preventing intestinal loops from reforming during a procedure.

Without this variation in stiffness, procedural performance is compromised. Olympus endoscopes that have been modified with third-party insertion tubes often feel either overly rigid—

ologists. Olympus insertion tubes used in our repair processes are exactly the same as the originals—built by the Olympus factory to conform to precise equipment specifications. It's the quality inside Olympus. Accept no substitutions!

Eddie



“Endoscopists and endoscopy unit managers should be aware of the differences in regulatory oversight, certification, and parts and materials sources when considering endoscope repair options. They should also acknowledge the potential for suboptimal endoscope repair to affect endoscope performance, durability, overall costs, and patient safety. Incidents that impact patient safety attributed to suboptimal repair should prompt MDR submission to the FDA’s Office of Surveillance and Biometrics.”

Ginsberg GG, Barkun AN, Bosco JJ, Burdick JS, Isenberg GA, Nakao NL, Petersen BT, Silverman WB, Slivka A, Kelsey PB. Technology Status Evaluation Report; Endoscope Repair by Original Equipment Manufacturers and Independent Service Organizations, January 2003; *Gastrointestinal Endoscopy* 2003;57:6, pp. 639-642.