Researchers at the University of South Florida have developed a device that makes placement of a urethral urinary catheter safer and easier.

Urethral catheterization is a routine procedure that enables drainage of the bladder. Although the procedure is very common, catheter insertion may be difficult and may cause urethral injury. Consequently, as evidenced by some reports, nearly 10% of male catheter insertions result in trauma requiring a urology consult and resulting in unnecessary procedures. A dilation device can be used in problematic cases for inserting a catheter, as existing dilation devices utilize guide wires for insertion. However, there are several shortcomings with this procedure, one such problem is that the guide wires used are made of stiff metal that may puncture patients' urethras. As a result of this risk, only licensed physician specialists are authorized to use this procedure.

Our inventors have developed a urethral catheter guidance system that is designed to incorporate a GLIDEWIRE® to allow the catheter to be carefully navigated through difficult areas of the urethra with a reduced risk of trauma or perforation. The GLIDEWIRE® is so flexible that it is nearly impossible for it to puncture the urethra and allows the catheter to pass more easily through strictures, or other urethral and prostatic trauma, with less risk of further damage than the currently available models. This will lead to a decrease in recurrent instrumentation of patients and trauma thus decreasing likelihood of an additional urology consult and the chance of a hospital acquired infections.

**ADVANTAGES:**
- Can be used with Foley catheter
- Reduced risk of trauma
- Decreased recurrent instrumentation

**Makes Placement of a Urethral Catheter Safer and Easier**

**Photograph of the Urethral Urinary Catheter Guidance Assembly with the GLIDEWIRE®**

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