Pulmonary Artery (Swan-Ganz) catheter: anatomy of the catheter

Basically, just 110 cm of 7-French tube with a balloon at the end. Simple as that. Piece of piss to insert, a shaved ape could do it. The whole point is: with the balloon, you can catheterize the right heart without fluoroscopy. Swan came up with it while watching sailboats; the correct term ought to be to “sail” the balloon into the pulmonary artery.

Cardiac output and continuous oximetry cable connectors where available

Proximal injectate port this is for the cold thermodilution fluid and for the CVP. Historically, its blue

Proximal infusion port which you can give drugs and fluids through, as it is in the RA.

PA distal lumen: this is for the PA pressure transducer and the mixed SvO₂ sampling

Thermistor connector: this is for the thermodilution measurements

Balloon lumen: this inflates the balloon. Historically, its red.

Introducer with side-port: the PA catheter is inserted through this; it has a side port that acts as a rapid infuser.

From Bersten and Soni’s “Oh’s Intensive Care Manual”, 6th Edition, as well as the PA catheter section from The ICU Book by Paul L. Marino (3rd edition, 2007)