

# Complications of Intrauterine Pressure Catheter Insertion Can Result From Tip Size and Catheter Stiffness

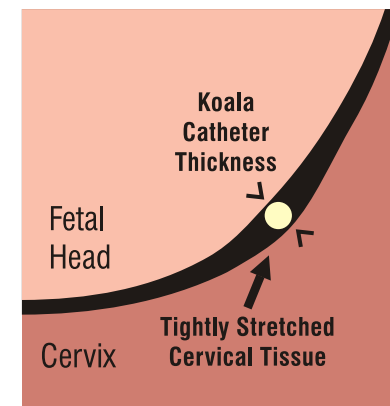
## Tip Size

The resistance to catheter insertion by cervical tissues increases significantly as insertion space is needed.

### Balloon-Tipped Catheter (Koala®)



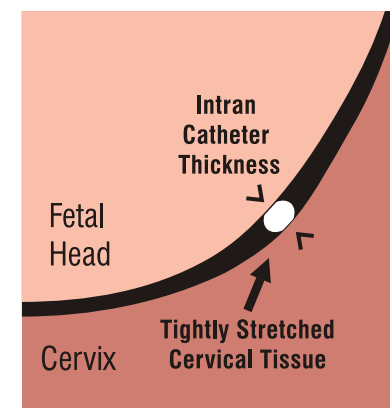
- Diameter of Koala catheter is 0.225 inches, which requires 0.225" insertion space between the fetal head and cervix.
- Wider opening can be difficult to achieve late in delivery.



### Transducer-Tipped Catheter (Intran® Plus)



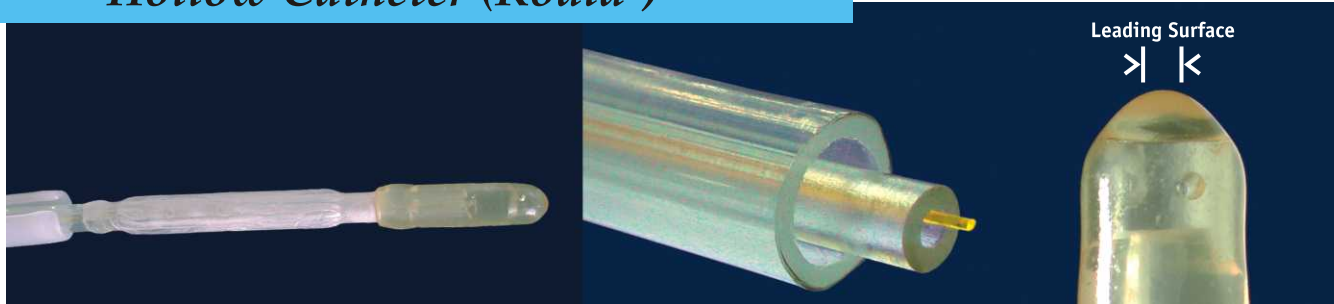
- Thickness of Intran's small tip is 0.190 inches, 16% less than the diameter of Koala.
- Leading surface of Intran tip is soft and blunt, intended to reduce the risk of tissue injury.



# Catheter Stiffness

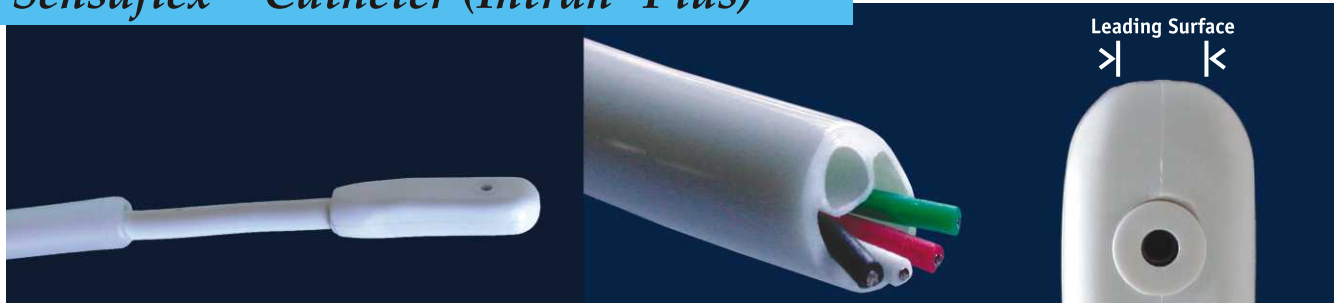
Safer insertion requires a catheter to be tactile enough to allow detection of tissue obstructions.

## Hollow Catheter (Koala<sup>®</sup>)



- The flimsiness of a hollow catheter reduces its tactility. Reduced tactility and sharper tip increases the risk of unwanted tissue injury.
- The air in the catheter body must physically transmit the uterine pressure signal to an external transducer. Any kinking, obstruction, moisture or other artifact will reduce the accuracy if the air column is compromised.

## Sensaflex<sup>™</sup> Catheter (Intran<sup>®</sup> Plus)



- The unique Sensaflex design of Intran Plus includes proprietary materials, construction and processing, producing optimum tactility for the clinician. The outcome is a catheter that has been used four million times without a product liability lawsuit.
- The pressure signal integrity remains uncompromised because it is carried electrically through wires from the transducer in the catheter tip to the electronic fetal monitor.