

holder 27 and tube 31 can then be laterally repositioned as desired by actuating lever arms 48 and 49 to allow lateral sliding of the tube holder along the length of strip 11. One of the primary advantages of such a construction is that the tube can easily be repositioned and positively locked without requiring release of tube 31 from the tube holder 27. This is advantageous because if it were required to release tube 31, tube 31 might possibly shift longitudinally in the patient's trachea, requiring repositioning of the tube and possibly x-ray verification of the tube's placement which is time-consuming, expensive and potentially harmful.

While in the foregoing, embodiments of the invention have been disclosed in considerable detail for purposes of illustration, it will be understood by those skilled in the art that many of these details may be varied without departing from the spirit and scope of the invention.

We claim:

1. A device for securing an endotracheal tube to a patient and allowing selective lateral positioning and positive locking of the tube without removing the device or tube from the patient, said device comprising:

an elongated strip of flexible material shaped to fit on a region adjacent to and along one lip of a patient, said strip having inner and outer surfaces and a pair of opposite ends;

adhesive pad means disposed on the inner surface of said strip for adhesively attaching the strip to said region of the patient;

a tube holder slidably connected to said strip and having an arm extending in a direction generally perpendicular to said strip, said tube holder including securement means for releasably attaching a tube along said arm;

positioning means for attaching said tube holder to said strip and allowing lateral sliding of said holder along a length of said strip; and

locking means for positively locking said holder in a selected position along the length of said strip, said locking means including restraining means disposed on said strip and engaging means disposed on said tube holder for selectively engaging or disengaging said restraining means and respectively locking said tube holder in a selected position or allowing lateral sliding of said tube holder along said strip;

said positioning means comprising track means disposed along said outer surface of said strip for enabling said tube holder to be slidably mounted thereon, and shuttle means disposed on said tube holder for engaging said track means and allowing lateral sliding of said tube holder along said track means;

said track means comprising an elongated rail of generally T-shaped configuration having a first member extending from said outer surface of said strip and a second cross-member parallel to said strip, and said shuttle means comprising a retainer of generally C-shaped configuration disposed on said holder and adapted to receive said cross-member of said rail such that said retainer and said tube holder are laterally slidable along said rail.

2. The device of claim 1 in which band means are provided for encircling a patient's head and connecting said ends of said strip to secure said strip on the patient.

3. The device of claim 1 in which said engaging means comprises a pair of lever arms positioned generally perpendicular to said strip and having distal end portions that engage said restraining means when said lever arms are in an unflexed condition, intermediate portions connected by flex-

ible webs to said tube holder, and proximal end portions that when squeezed towards each other, cause said lever arms to pivot about said intermediate portions, thereby disengaging said distal end portions from said restraining means.

4. The device of claim 3 in which each of said lever arms are positioned on opposite sides of said shuttle means.

5. The device of claim 4 in which said restraining means comprises a smooth but resilient outer face of said track means positioned to frictionally engage said distal end portions of said lever arms when said lever arms are in said unflexed condition.

6. The device of claim 4 in which said restraining means comprises a longitudinal series of transversely-extending ratchet teeth disposed along said track means.

7. A device for securing an endotracheal tube to a patient and allowing selective lateral positioning and positive locking of the tube without removing the device or tube from the patient, said device comprising:

an elongated strip of flexible material shaped to fit on a region adjacent to and along one lip of a patient, said strip having inner and outer surfaces and a pair of opposite ends;

adhesive pad means disposed on the inner surface of said strip for adhesively attaching the strip to said region of the patient;

a tube holder slidably connected to said strip and having an arm extending in a direction generally perpendicular to said strip, said tube holder including securement means for releasably attaching a tube along said arm;

positioning means for attaching said tube holder to said strip and allowing lateral sliding of said holder along a length of said strip; and

locking means for positively locking said holder in a selected position along the length of said strip, said locking means including restraining means disposed on said strip and engaging means disposed on said tube holder for selectively engaging or disengaging said restraining means and respectively locking said tube holder in a selected position or allowing lateral sliding of said tube holder along said strip;

said securement means comprising an elongated, flexible strap with one end attached to said arm of said tube holder and a free length extending in a direction transverse to said arm, adhesive means disposed on an inner surface of said free length for securing a tube thereto, and clamp means positioned on said arm for fixedly securing a segment of said strap along its free length to said arm when said strap is formed into a tube-retaining loop;

said clamping means comprising a clamping member hingedly attached to said tube holder, a receiving channel disposed along the length of said arm, and a releasable latching means for locking said clamping member along said receiving channel when a segment of said strap is inserted between said clamping member and said channel.

8. The device of claim 7 in which said adhesive pad means includes a layer of fluid-absorbing, hydrocolloid-containing adhesive material having both wet and dry tack properties.

9. A device for securing an endotracheal tube to a patient and allowing selective lateral positioning and positive locking of the tube without removing the device or tube from the patient, said device comprising:

an elongated strip of flexible material shaped to fit on a region adjacent to and along one lip of a patient, said strip having inner and outer surfaces and a pair of opposite ends;