

mouth; the invention has the general appearance of spectacles. Cooperating with the lower left radius of frame assembly **14** is ratchet clamp assembly **20**. The ratchet clamp assembly **20** provides pressure to secure endotracheal tube **40** inside tube channel **16** which is integral to frame assembly **14**. Tube channel **16** extends inbetween the patient's front teeth to insure placement and integrity of the endotracheal tube. The endotracheal tube stabilizer is secured to the patient by means of an adjustable fastening strap **35**. Access to both sides of the patient's mouth is achieved with apertures **42** which are integral to frame assembly **14**.

In the preferred embodiment the overall dimensions of the endotracheal tube stabilizer are approximately 100 mm wide and approximately 50 mm high, with a depth of approximately 35 mm. The wall thickness of the frame assembly is approximately 3 mm. The fastening strap **35** is approximately 600 mm long, 15 mm wide, and 5 mm thick. Apertures **42** have an inside diameter of approximately 35 mm. Tube channel **16** has an inside width of approximately 16 mm, and will accommodate endotracheal tube sizes 3 mm to 10 mm.

Suitable construction materials for the endotracheal tube stabilizer include polypropylenes, thermal plastic rubber, and any other deformable plastics which are durable and hold their original configuration over time. Moreover, the endotracheal tube stabilizer accommodates a wide range of patients and endotracheal tube sizes. The ratchet clamping mechanism and quick fastening strap allow the subject invention to be applied in four simple steps. Unlike prior art inventions that inhibit access to a patient's mouth the subject invention provides access to both sides of a patient's mouth.

Although the preceding description contains specifications particular to the subject invention, these should not be construed as limiting the scope of this invention, but as merely providing illustrations of some of the presently preferred embodiments of the invention.

Numerous modifications and variations of the subject invention are possible in light of the above teachings. Thus the scope of the subject invention should be determined by the appended claims and their legal equivalents, and not according to the examples given.

I claim:

1. An endotracheal tube stabilizer comprising:

an elongate frame having a transverse tube channel with an opening sized to radially receive an endotracheal tube;

means for securing the elongate frame to the head of a patient with the elongate frame bridging and the tube channel adjacent to the patient's mouth; and

a clamp having a body and a distal foot, the clamp body being attached to the elongate frame with the distal foot traveling in an arcuate path relative to the elongate frame from an open position remote from the opening of the transverse tube channel to a select operative position blocking the opening of the tube channel, whereby with an endotracheal tube received in the channel the distal foot, in the operative position, clamps the endotracheal tube in a fixed position relative to the elongate frame within the tube channel.

2. The endotracheal tube stabilizer of claim **1** wherein the elongate frame further comprises a pair of apertures on opposite sides of the tube channel, whereby, with the elongate frame secured to the head of a patient, a clinician can access the mouth of the patient from opposite sides of the tube channel.

3. The endotracheal tube stabilizer of claim **1** wherein the elongate frame has a lengthwise concave contour.

4. The endotracheal tube stabilizer of claim **1** further comprising an arcuate wall extending lengthwise essentially normally from the elongate frame about the tube channel periphery defining a protective jacket for an endotracheal tube received in the tube channel.

5. The endotracheal tube stabilizer of claim **4** further comprising a plurality of runners extending lengthwise of and inwardly from the wall.

6. The endotracheal tube stabilizer of claim **1** further comprising an arcuate track attached to the elongate frame with the clamp body slidably engaging the arcuate track.

7. The endotracheal tube of claim **6** further comprising serrations on a surface of the arcuate track and a blade extending from the clamp body biased to an extended position in operative engagement with the serrations to secure the clamp body against movement along the arcuate track, the blade being retractable to a retracted position out of engagement with the serrations to enable free movement of the clamp body along the arcuate track.

8. The endotracheal tube stabilizer of claim **7** wherein the serrations are inclined to allow free movement of the clamp body toward the mouth of the tube channel with the blade in the extended position while preventing movement of the clamp body away from the mouth with the blade in the extended position.

9. The endotracheal tube stabilizer of claim **6** further comprising a lever extending from the elongate frame spaced from the arcuate track, the lever being disposed so that a clinician can engage the lever and clamp body between a finger and thumb of one hand and slide the clamp body toward the lever.

10. The endotracheal tube stabilizer of claim **6** wherein the arcuate track is elevated relative to the elongate frame.

11. An endotracheal tube stabilizer comprising:

an elongate frame having a transverse tube channel with an opening sized to radially receive an endotracheal tube and an elongate track attached to the elongate frame proximate the tube channel;

means for securing the elongate frame to the head of a patient with the elongate frame bridging and the tube channel adjacent to the patient's mouth;

a clamp having a body and a distal foot, the clamp body slidably engaging the elongate track and being freely slidable in a direction from an open position with the foot remote from the opening of the tube channel toward an operative position with the foot blocking the opening of the tube channel; and

locking means between the track and the clamp body for preventing slidable movement of the clamp body in a direction from the operative position toward the open position without manual actuation.

12. The endotracheal tube stabilizer of claim **11** wherein the locking means comprises serrations on a surface of the elongate track and a blade extending from the clamp body, the blade being biased to an extended position in operative engagement with the serrations to lock the clamp body against movement in a direction from the operative position toward the open position and the blade being manually retractable to a retracted position out of operative engagement with the serrations to enable movement of the clamp body in a direction from the operative position toward the open position.

13. The endotracheal stabilizer of claim **11** further comprising a lever extending forward of the elongate frame and spaced from the elongate track, the lever being disposed so