

To assemble the device, locking piece 14 is laid between the two sections 12a, 12b of the center piece. The gripping shoulder 24 of the locking piece extends through the space between the two rails 46a, 46b of section 12a. The two sections 12a, 12b are folded and locked by inserting the pin 150 into the hole 123 and the undersurface of the conical head 152 locks on the shelf of the recess on the hole 123 at outer face of section 12b. Again, the device is preferably packaged and shipped away from the bite block tube gripping surfaces 42 by a distance corresponding to the maximum tube diameter.

The tube holder is placed over the patient's mouth by passing the elastic or other type of strap (not shown) around the patient's head. The locking piece 14 is pulled to close the opening 70. A firm gripping action is achieved due to the one way action of the mating ratchet teeth 122, 124. As before, the entire tube holder 10 can be moved relative to the mouth of the patient and access provided through the rails.

FIG. 7 shows a modification which can be used with any of the embodiments heretofore described. Here, a taping block 165 is formed on the end of the outer surface of section 12b of the center piece. The taping block generally corresponds in shape to the bite block 40 on the inner face of section 12a, so that the tube can pass through the frame opening to the gripping jaws 24, 121 and the bite block 40. Once the tube is in place, a strip of adhesive, or other tape can be wrapped around the tube and taped to the taping block 165. Some medical technicians desire this for additional security although the gripping jaws normally provides a firm enough grip for the tube. There is still access to the mouth of the patient through the windows in the sections of the center piece.

The endotracheal tube holder of the invention is simple to manufacture, being preferably made of the molded pieces and is easy to assemble. A positive gripping action is provided to securely hold the tube inserted into the patient's mouth.

As can be seen, a novel and economic endotracheal tube holder has been disclosed. The holder is economical to make and assemble. It has considerable advantage in the manner in which a firm locking of the tube can be achieved and at the same time that a full access through the holder's openings to the mouth of the patient is also made available.

What is claimed:

1. An endotracheal tube holder comprising:
 - an elongated center piece for placement over the mouth of a patient;
 - said center piece integrally formed with a first part of a tube gripping jaw,
 - an elongated locking piece integrally formed with a second part of said tube gripping jaw;
 - said center piece and said locking piece being flexible along each of their respective lengths to permit said pieces to conform to the shape of the face of the patient,
 - means for holding said two pieces together while permitting a sliding relationship therebetween along a substantial part of the length of said pieces;
 - and means for locking said two pieces from sliding with the two jaw parts in a position with the tube held therebetween.

2. An endotracheal tube holder as in claim 1 where each of said center and locking pieces has an elongated slot therein along a part of its length adjacent its jaw part which is aligned with the slot of the other piece when the two pieces are assembled to permit further access through said aligned slots to the patient's mouth.

3. An endotracheal tube holder as to claim 1 where said first part of said tube gripping jaw extends inwardly from the center piece so as to project into the mouth of the patient to form a bite block.

4. An endotracheal tube holder as in claim 1, wherein said means for locking said two pieces from sliding comprises ratchet teeth on one of said pieces and means on said other piece for engaging said ratchet teeth.

5. An endotracheal tube holder as in claim 4 wherein said ratchet teeth and said engaging means permit only one way sliding motion in a direction to bring said gripping jaw parts closer together yet permitting separation of ratchet surfaces if necessary for readjustment.

6. An endotracheal tube holder as in claim 4 wherein said ratchet teeth are formed on one face of said center piece and said engaging means comprises ratchet teeth formed on a face of said locking piece opposing said one face.

7. An endotracheal tube holder as in claim 3 further comprising an outwardly extending projection on the outer face of said center section to form a taping block for use in optional taping of the tube to the holder.

8. An endotracheal tube holder as in claim 2 wherein said center piece comprises an elongated member which is folded to form two sections each having a slot therein, said locking piece sliding within the folded sections of said center piece, said means for holding said two pieces together comprising mating means on the opposing free ends of the two folded sections of said center piece.

9. An endotracheal tube holder as in claim 8 wherein said mating means comprises an opening in the free end of one section, and a locking piece on the free end of said other section which fits into said opening.

10. An endotracheal tube holder as in claim 9 wherein said mating means comprises a latching channel formed on the free end of one of said sections of said center piece, and a latching tab on the free end of the other center piece section.

11. An endotracheal tube holder as in claim 1 in which the gripping surface of at least one of said gripping jaws which is to engage the tube is provided with a spiked or ridged surface.

12. An endotracheal tube holder as in claim 3 wherein said bite block is of flexible material.

13. An endotracheal tube holder as in claim 1 wherein the interior surface of at least one of said gripping jaws which is to engage the tube has a plurality of flat walls.

14. An endotracheal tube holder as in claim 1 further comprising a strap to fasten the holder onto the head of the patient, said strap having one end attached to the end of one of said pieces, remote from the jaw part thereon, and mating fastening means on the other end of said strap and the end of the other piece remote from the jaw part thereon.

15. An endotracheal tube holder as in claim 1 further comprising a strap to fasten the holder onto the head of the patient, such strap having an end attached to the end of each of said pieces remote from the jaw part.

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