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As shown in FIG. 3, another embodiment of the bite-block 110, in accordance with the invention, does not include a handle portion 50. This embodiment includes a flexible U-shaped frame 120 having a first side 124 and an opposite second side 126. The U-shaped frame 120 a body portion 122 and two spaced-apart lobes 130 extending therefrom. The two lobes 130 define a gap 132 therebetween. Two force absorbing pads 140 each extend upwardly from the first side 124 along at least a portion of each one of the two lobes 130. This embodiment, lacking a handle, may be somewhat harder to place in and remove from the patient's mouth than the embodiment of FIG. 1, but, obviously, has relatively lower material costs.

The embodiments disclosed above may be manufactured by making an aluminum mold of the bite-block. Polyethylene beads are transferred into the cavity of the mold and then steam is introduced into the cavity. The steam softens the beads and the beads fuse. The mold and the beads are then allowed to cool. As is obvious to those of skill in the art, other manufacturing processes and materials may be employed without departing from the scope of the invention.

The above described embodiments are given as illustrative examples only. It will be readily appreciated that many deviations may be made from the specific embodiments disclosed in this specification without departing from the invention. Accordingly, the scope of the invention is to be determined by the claims below rather than being limited to the specifically described embodiments above.

What is claimed is:

1. A bite block for protecting the mouth of a patient receiving electroconvulsive therapy comprising:
 - a U shaped frame of a flexible material having a first side and an opposite second side and including a body portion and two spaced apart lobes extending therefrom, the two lobes defining a gap therebetween; and
 - two force absorbing pads, each extending upwardly from the first side along a at least a portion of a different one of the two lobes,
 said U-shaped frame and two absorbing pads formed from a unitary piece of foam wherein said foam is selected

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to have the U-shaped frame sufficiently flexible to provide that the two lobes may be squeezed together to facilitate easy placement of the bite-block (10) in the patient's mouth, while also providing the force absorbing ability necessary to protect the mouth of a patient receiving electroconvulsive therapy when the masseter muscles contract forcibly during a session of ECT treatment.

2. The bite-block of claim 1, wherein the unitary piece of foam comprises expanded polyethylene.

3. The bite-block of claim 2, wherein the expanded polyethylene has a density in a range of from 3 pounds per cubic foot to 6 pounds per cubic foot.

4. The bite-block of claim 1, further comprising a handle portion extending upwardly from the body portion of the U-shaped frame, opposite the two lobes.

5. A bite block for protecting the mouth of a patient receiving electroconvulsive therapy comprising:

- a Y shaped frame of a flexible material having a first side and an opposite second side and including a body portion and two spaced apart lobes extending therefrom, the two lobes defining a gap therebetween and handle portion extending upwardly from the body portion opposite the two lobes; and

- two force absorbing pads, each extending upwardly from the first side along at least a portion of a different one of the two lobes,

- each lobe pad and the Y-Shaped frame being made from a unitary piece of expanded foam wherein said foam has a flexibility selected to enable that the two lobes are squeezable together whereby placement of the bite-block (10) in the patient's mouth is facilitated while also providing the force absorbing ability necessary to protect the mouth of a patient receiving electroconvulsive therapy when the masseter muscles contract forcibly during a session of ECT treatment.

6. The bite-block of claim 5, wherein the expanded polyethylene has a density in a range of from 3 pounds per cubic foot to 6 pounds per cubic foot.

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