

cheal tube 14 in proper position in a patient's mouth and protecting the patient from endotracheal intubation associated injury using the above-described device. The method comprises the steps of applying an effective amount of the adhesive composition along the channel; inserting the body member into the patient's mouth against the superior and anterior oral cavity; positioning the endotracheal tube in proper position in the patient's mouth; and affixing the endotracheal tube to the body member. The method can include the additional first step of molding the first polymer of the device to conform to the contours of the patient's superior and anterior oral cavity.

As used herein, "a" means one or more than one depending upon the context within which it is used. The examples described herein are intended to illustrate, but not limit the invention. It will be appreciated by one skilled in the art that a variety of alternate embodiments are contemplated by the scope and spirit of disclosure of the present invention.

What is claimed is:

1. An medical device for maintaining by means of an oral adhesive composition an endotracheal tube having an exterior surface in proper position in a patient's mouth and protecting a patient from endotracheal intubation associated injury, comprising:

- a. a body member having a superior surface, an inferior surface, an anterior aspect and a posterior aspect, said body member defining a passage for receiving an endotracheal tube through the anterior aspect thereof, and said superior surface being complementarily shaped to a patient's superior and anterior oral cavity for positioning thereagainst;
- b. a channel integrally formed on said superior surface of said body member in registry with a patient's upper teeth or gums, adapted for receiving the adhesive composition for temporarily maintaining said body member in a patient's mouth; and,
- c. means for affixing an endotracheal tube to the body member, comprising a forward portion extending from said anterior aspect of said body member about said endotracheal tube passage and terminating in a forward end and a clamping means on the forward end for selectively maintaining an endotracheal tube in proper position.

2. The device of claim 1, wherein said clamping means is a flexible element having opposed ends and a ratchet and a pawl on respective ends which cooperate to lock the flexible element about the exterior surface of an endotracheal tube.

3. The device of claim 1, wherein the flexible element has an interior surface with means thereon for preventing slipping movement of an endotracheal tube.

4. The device of claim 1, wherein said adhesive composition comprises a bacteriostatic, anti-bacterial, fungistatic, or fungicidal agent.

5. The device of claim 1, wherein said oral adhesive composition comprises a dental adhesive.

6. The device of claim 1, wherein said body member further comprises a first polymer defining said superior surface and a second polymer defining said inferior surface thereof.

7. The device of claim 6, wherein said first polymer is more resiliently deformable than said second polymer.

8. The device of claim 7, wherein said first polymer is moldable at a lower temperature than said second polymer.

9. The device of claim 1, wherein said posterior aspect is thicker than said anterior aspect at the position which is in registry with a patient's teeth or gums.

10. A method of maintaining by means of an adhesive composition an endotracheal tube on a medical device in proper position in a patient's mouth and protecting the patient from endotracheal intubation associated injury, the method comprising:

providing a body member having a superior surface, an inferior surface, an anterior aspect and a posterior aspect, said body member defining a passage for receiving an endotracheal tube through the anterior aspect thereof, and said superior surface being complementarily shaped to the patient's superior and anterior oral cavity for positioning thereagainst;

providing a channel integrally formed on said superior surface of said body member in registry with the patient's upper teeth or gums, adapted for receiving the adhesive composition for temporarily maintaining said body member in the patient's mouth; and,

providing means for affixing an endotracheal tube to the body member, comprising a forward portion extending from said anterior aspect of said body member about said endotracheal tube passage and terminating in a forward end and a clamping means on the forward end for selectively maintaining an endotracheal tube in proper position;

a. applying an effective amount of the adhesive composition along the channel;

b. inserting the body member into the patient's mouth against the superior and anterior oral cavity;

c. positioning an endotracheal tube in proper position in the patient's mouth; and,

d. affixing an endotracheal tube to the body member.

11. The method of claim 10, further comprising providing said clamping means as a flexible element having opposed ends and a ratchet and a pawl on respective ends which cooperate to lock the flexible element about the exterior surface of an endotracheal tube.

12. The method of claim 10, further comprising: providing the flexible element with an interior surface with means thereon for preventing slipping movement of an endotracheal tube.

13. The method of claim 10, further comprising: providing said adhesive composition as a bacteriostatic, antibacterial, fungistatic, or fungicidal agent.

14. The method of claim 10, further comprising said oral adhesive composition as a dental adhesive.

15. The method of claim 10, further comprising: providing said body member as a first polymer defining said superior surface and a second polymer defining said inferior surface thereof.

16. The method of claim 15, further comprising: making said first polymer more resiliently deformable than said second polymer.

17. The method of claim 16, further comprising: molding said first polymer at a lower temperature than said second polymer.

18. The method of claim 17, further comprising the additional first step of molding the first polymer of the medical device to conform to the contours of the patient's superior and anterior oral cavity.

19. The method of claim 10, further comprising: making said posterior aspect thicker than said anterior aspect at the position which is in registry with the patient's teeth or gums.