

tached and operated in the appropriate manner. The bite block and airway combination insure against leakage, between the interior of the patient's mouth and the atmosphere, providing a seal between the rim 30 and patient's lips, regardless of whether or not the patient is edentulous, which may be impossible to obtain using a mask.

While the airway tube described above preferably includes the interference detents 28 to retain the airway tube at a predetermined position within the bite block, these detents may be omitted, allowing the position of the airway tube within the bite block to be more easily adjusted, permitting one size of airway tube to be used with minimum discomfort for patients of widely varying size and age. The airway and bite block may also be a unitary construction, although this limits the range of adjustment of the depth of insertion of the posterior portion of the airway tube into the patient's throat, and is therefore less conducive to patient comfort.

The terms and expressions which have been employed in the foregoing specification are used therein as terms of description and not of limitation, and there is no intention, in the use of such terms and expressions, of excluding equivalents of the features shown and described or portions thereof, it being recognized that the scope of the invention is defined and limited only by the claims which follow.

What is claimed is:

1. A combination oropharyngeal airway and bite block assembly for use in providing closed pulmonary ventilation of a patient, comprising:

- (a) an oropharyngeal airway tube having means defining a curved tubular posterior portion, for introduction through the mouth into the upper throat of a patient, a tubular anterior portion connected to said posterior portion and tubular connector means

connected to said anterior portion for detachably and sealingly connecting said airway tube to a closed ventilation apparatus;

- (b) a U-shaped bite block in engagement with said airway tube for preventing occlusion of the airway tube when the assembly is inserted in the patient's mouth, said bite block having a central aperture, said airway tube and said aperture having frictionally mating surface means for permitting said airway tube and said aperture to frictionally and sealingly engage one another in a plurality of positions along the length of said airway tube, thereby permitting slidable adjustment of said airway tube with respect to said bite block;
- (c) positioning stop means located on said anterior portion of said airway tube for limiting rearward motion of said airway tube within said aperture of said bite block; and
- (d) detent means including a plurality of generally hemispherical protrusions located on said posterior portion of said airway tube, the distance between said forward stop means and detent means being greater than the thickness of said bite block from front to back along said central aperture, whereby said detent means limits the forward movement of said airway tube within said aperture of said bite block.

2. The combination of claim 1 wherein said airway tube is of pliable resilient material and said bite block is of harder resilient material, said airway tube being sufficiently stiff to resist collapsing within the upper throat of a patient, and said bite block being sufficiently hard to prevent the patient from occluding said airway tube by biting.

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