

punched, fall away, making two groups to be counted or further subdivided. Monthly totals are conveniently determined and are recorded in ledger fashion in columns that can easily be totaled in the annual report. EDWIN L. GLAZENER, M.D.S San Diego, California, AND DONALD E. HALE, M.B. Cleveland Clinic Cleveland 6, Ohio

HEAD DURING
DECTOMY

A DEVICE FOR SUPPORT OF THE HEAD DURING TONSILLECTOMY AND ADENOIDECTOMY

In some sections of the country it is the practice to perform tonsillectomy and adenoidectomy with the patient in the sitting position. It is not the purpose of this paper to discuss the advantages or disadvantages of this position. The author wishes to present a solution to several of the technical problems involved in the anesthetic management of these cases.

When tonsillectomy and adenoidectomy are done with the patient in the upright position, the anesthesiologist must support the head and change its position to accommodate the surgeon. He must also maintain the airway and adjust the flew of anesthetic gases or vapors. If both his hands are involved in placing the patient's head in position, he finds it difficult and clumsy to control the anesthesia apparatis. The head strap described here enables the anesthesiologist completely and effectively to control the position of the head with one hand only, leaving his other hand fine to regulate the flow of anesthetic ageiths.

The device shown in figure 1 is inexpensively constructed from 1 inch canvas



Fig. 1. Front view.

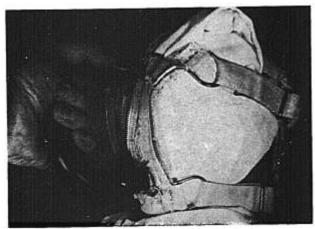


Fig. 2. Back view, showing handles.

webbing with several buckles and metal loops obtained from a harness maker. The 5 inch zipper on the back of the strap is readily obtainable. Suitease handles as shown in figure 2, are used in its construction. Surfaces coming in contact with the face are covered with thin sponge rubber, the type used in the making of shoe inner soles. These are excellent for this purpose, since they are backed by a leatherette material which can be cut into strips and stitched to the webbing.

The strap is readily adjustable to any size by means of the buckles and can be washed and dried with ease. The handles are comfortable to hold and afford excellent control. The head can be flexed and extended quickly, as shown in figures 3 and 4, and can be turned laterally with equal facility.

After the patient is anesthetized in recumbent position the strap is adjusted and used for the remainder of the operation until immediately before adenoides tomy is done. Then the anesthesia is discontinued and the strap removed.

I have used this strap in over 50 toned-lectomies and adenoidectomies. The sequence of the seq

SUMMARY

A device is described for holding the patient's head during tonsillectomy and adenoidectomy when the operation is done with the patient in the sitting position. The device consists of a head strap constructed of cotton webbing and lined with

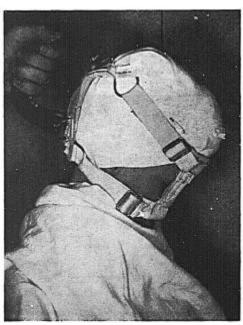


Fig. 3. Side view, showing flexion of head.

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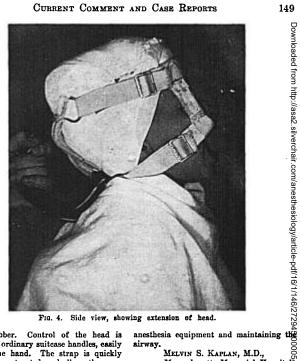


Fig. 4. Side view, showing extension of head.

sponge rubber. Control of the head is effected by ordinary suitcase handles, easily held by one hand. The strap is quickly and easily constructed, and allows the anesthesiologist a free hand for controlling the airway.

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CORRESPONDENCE

To the Editor:

I am referring to the article on "Nomenclature for Methods of Inhalation Anesthesia" by Moyers which appeared in the November 1953 issue, it is assumed, with editorial approval.

I agree emphatically with Moyers on the necessity of clearing up the confusion of nomenclature, but it seems to me that Moyers adds to the confusion rather than attempting to clarify it.

"Semi" is a Greek prefix, meaning half. The half empty glass is as full as the half full one, or the half full one is just as empty as the half empty one.

Therefore, I believe it is necessary that Moyers find other words to describe has techniques which he terms "half open" ex "semiopen," and "half closed" or "semeclosed."

Such terms should be defined with edictorial approval once and for all. This is the only way that we instructors will know what to teach our apprentices and what to expect in the different examinations.

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