An Anesthetic Tubing Support

John A. Harris, M.D., and J. Antonio Aldrete, M.D., M.S.

During anesthesia support of the delivery hoses forming the limbs of the breathing circle in anesthesia machines is necessary to prevent facial pressure marks or dislodgement of endotracheal tubes. This is often managed with head straps and/or by taping the tubing to the patient's head. However, the straps and tape can also injure the skin of the face, and may loosen. To alleviate these problems, we designed and constructed a simple and inexpensive tubing support.

Placed between the operating table and its mattress, the support (figs. 1 and 2) is anchored by the weight of the patient's head. The delivery tubes are arranged in the slots so that they form a smooth arc over, and not touching, the patient's face. The corrugations provide anchorage against slippage. By adjustment of the tubes, one is able to control the angle at which an attached endotracheal tube emerges from the patient's mouth, thereby checking lip distortion and pressure.

The support was fabricated from a scrap piece of 7/16"-thick hardwood veneer wall paneling, but any thin, rigid, plate-like material such as plywood, plastic and sheet metal will suffice. We designed the model to conform to the smaller external diameter of the corrugated rubber tubing being currently employed. In the diagram the only critical feature is the slot diameter.

Received from the Department of Anesthesiology, University of Colorado Medical Center, and the Veterans Administration Hospital, Denver, Colorado 80220.

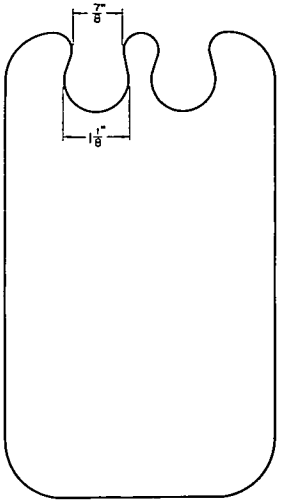

Fig. 1. Diagram of tubing support.

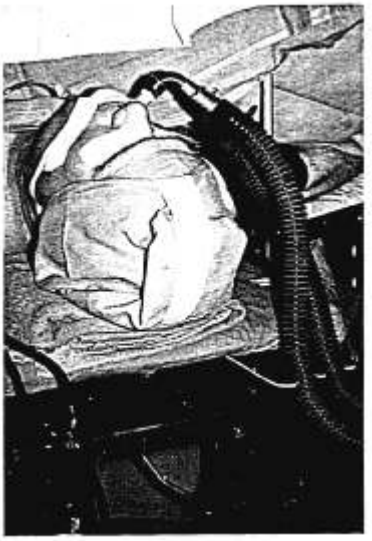

Fig. 2. Tubing support in use.

Downloaded from http://asa2.silverchair.com/anesthesiology/article-pdf/33/4/462/291015/0000542-197010000-00024.pdf by guest on 19 April 2024