(12) **United States Patent**
Reid

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(54) **TRUSS, SPRING**

(76) Inventor: **Henry Reid**

Henry Reid.
Letters Patent.

The Schedule referred to in these Letters Patent and making part of the same containing a description in the words of the said Henry Reid himself of his improvement in the Spring Truss.

To all to whom these presents shall come.

Be it known that I Henry Reid of the City of Augusta in the County of Richmond and State of Georgia have invented a new and useful improved Spring Truss, for the immediate and permanent relief and probable cure of those who are afflicted with inguinal scrotal and umbilical hernia (or rupture) and the following is a full and exact description thereof.

This improved independent Spring Truss which I have invented consists of a steel plate about three fourths of an inch broad, and about one twelfth of an inch thick at each end, with a gradual diminution of the thickness from each end to the middle of the plate. In each end of the plate three small holes are drilled in the form of an equilateral triangle behind which a neck somewhat round of one inch in length is formed. The side of the plate next to the body is wedged, that is, the corners rounded. The lip extends from the centre of the abdominal ring on the right side in the shortest direction around the loins and back, and terminates on the centre of the abdominal ring on the left side. The plate is curved to fit the patient so as to make the perforated ends rest upon the abdominal rings. The whole plate (except the ends) must receive a good spring temper. The pad is an oval block of wood, for a man of common stature, in the proportion of three inches long two inches broad, and one inch thick some what on the one side and plane on the other side,

resembling in every respect, the one half of a goose egg, divided longitudinally. The size of the block however must be adapted to the necessity of the case according to the judgement of the surgeon in attendance. The block is attached to the spring by a small wood screw three eighths of an inch in length; the plane side of the block comes in contact with the abdominal muscles of the spring the large end of the block is kept to the pubis. A short covered spring of similar strength with three small holes drilled at each end in the form of an equilateral triangle, extending from the abdominal block to the umbilicus with a circular block in the proportion of two inches diameter and one inch thick, convex one one side and plane on the other may be added in all cases of umbilical hernia; The size of this block also must be adapted by the surgeon to the necessity of the case; both springs are to be faced neatly with a thick of soft flannel. This truss differs from Hulls, Mc Rushes Dragues and all others in passing from one groin behind the pelvis and around the other groin, and presses with equal force on the soft part above the brim of the pelvis on each side before with a lateral and inward pressure, having its points of pressure before the ulterior edge of the lateral parts of the great pelvis to ensure its retention in its place. It differs from Hulls and Mc Rushes in the peculiar shape of the block by which the immediate pressure is made, and in the immobility of the blocks, and in the pressure being made by blocks instead of pads or cushions it differs from Dragues in having simply spring power and that so adjusted to the parts as to retain its adjustment without the aid of belt, buckle and straps or any other means except the spring power.

Application— If the patient be afflicted on one side only, let a soft pad of flannel be attached to the end of the truss, which is to come in contact with the bound abdominal ring, then let the truss be applied by the surgeon and the wooden block so placed as that the proper centre of pressure will coincide with the centre of the defect in abdominal ring and its lower side with the curve of the bone immediately under the ring.

ring. The pressure must never be so great as to produce external inflammation, the pressure can be graduated by the surgeon or patient bending in or out the unimpressed ends of the Truss. In all cases the block must be adjusted to the parts before it is fastened to the spring. The umbilical spring is not necessary in common cases, but when used it must be carefully adjusted to the part afflicted and fastened by small wood screws to the abdominal block. It will be well for those who can afford it to have the convex surface of the block covered with a thin plate of silver or gold. The latter plate ought to be uncovered and anointed with sweet oil once every month to prevent rust.

Advantages. This Truss will suit equally well the afflicted of both sexes it will be peculiarly useful to the accoucheur in all cases of parturition complicated by hernia because its operation is without straps, which cannot be well applied in the latter stages of pregnancy or in labor, and will by its pressure prevent the necessity of an assistant or the use of one of the accoucheurs hands for preventing protrusion. It will not prevent attention to the ordinary business of life as its retentive power can be overcome by violent efforts only nor will it prevent the person in the most fashionable manner as it requires neither belt strap nor buckle to keep it in its proper place.

N.B Let the surgeon get the exact size of his patient by passing a flexible wire around his body, and have the Truss prepared accordingly. What I claim as my own invention and not previously known in the above described improved independent Spring Truss is that it passes from one abdominal ring, round the loins & back to the other abdominal ring and must diminish permanently equable pressure on the soft parts above the brim of the pelvis on each side, without the aid of belt strap buckle or any other appendage whatsoever, and I claim also the short curved spring passing from the groin to the umbilicus substantially as

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