Sept. 30, 1952 V. MANLEY 2,612,158

SACROILIAC BLOCK

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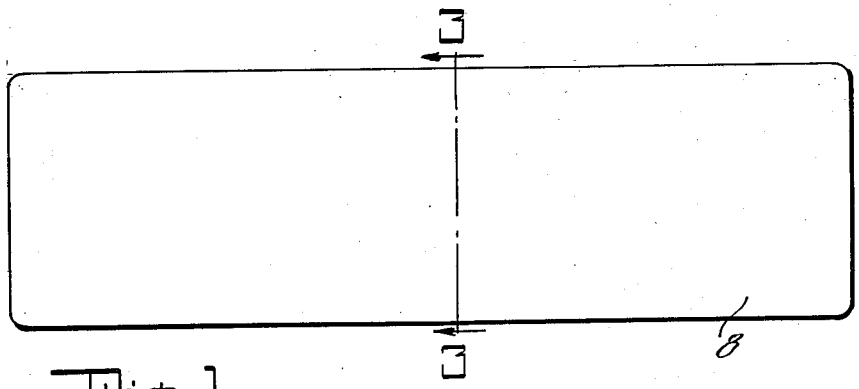


Fig. 1.

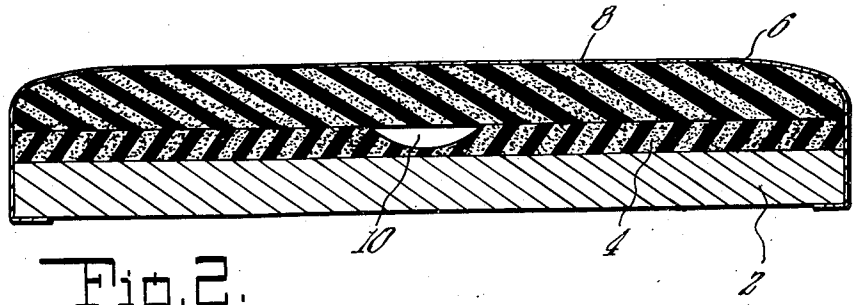


Fig. 2.

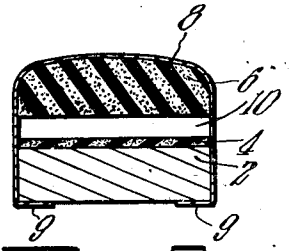


Fig. 3

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SACROILIAC BLOCK

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2 Claims. (Cl. 128—69)

1

This invention relates to anatomical supports and is directed more particularly to fulcrum blocks for the treatment of patients.

The principal objects of the invention are directed more particularly to improvements in anatomical supports constructed and arranged to function as a fulcrum for the sacroiliac region of the body as well as for relaxing spinal muscles and normalizing joint action and other treatments.

The support of the invention is characterized by an elongated base which is relatively rigid and having a yieldable intermediate layer thereon with an upper relatively more yieldable layer, all of which is enclosed in a casing.

As a special feature of the invention, the intermediate layer is provided with a transverse groove thereby to adapt the support for many and various uses.

The support has been found to be useful for aiding and correcting various conditions. For instance, with the support placed transversely beneath the back of a patient in supine position, there is a relaxing of spinal muscles and vertebrae and pelvic segments tending to normalize joint action as the doctor rocks the patient on the support to bring about movement in the area of the spine.

With the block support placed beneath the patient, sacroiliac joint fixations may be freed for the correction of spinal subluxation, or when disposed beneath the neck the muscles of the neck are relaxed in cases of neuralgic headaches.

The support has met with much success in the treatment of various conditions and when disposed beneath the back of a patient there are no unfavorable stresses applied to the joints, all of which is due to the novel constructions of the support.

All of the above objects I accomplish by means of such structure and relative arrangements of parts thereof, as will fully appear by a perusal of the description below and by various specific features which will be hereinafter set forth.

To the above cited and other ends and with the foregoing and various other novel features and advantages and other objects of my invention as will become more readily apparent as the description proceeds, my invention consists in certain novel features of construction and in the combination and arrangement of parts as will be hereinafter more particularly pointed out in the claims hereunto annexed and more fully described and referred to in connection with the accompanying drawings wherein:

2

Fig. 1 is a plan view of an anatomical support embodying the novel features of the invention;

Fig. 2 is a longitudinal sectional elevational view through the support shown in Fig. 1; and

Fig. 3 is a transverse sectional elevational view on the line 3—3 of Fig. 1.

Referring now to the drawings more in detail, the invention will be fully described.

A base member 2 is provided which is preferably oblong in shape and is formed so as to be substantially rigid. Various materials may be employed but a base formed from wood has been found to be suitable for the practice of the invention.

An intermediate layer 4 is superposed on the base and is formed from yieldable material so as to be relatively more yieldable and resilient than the base.

An upper layer 6 is superposed on the intermediate layer 4 and is formed from material which is relatively more yieldable and resilient than said intermediate layer 4.

A covering or casing 8 is provided which encloses the base 2 and the layers 4 and 6. This covering will be formed from yieldable and pliable material such as leather, imitation leather, fabric or the like and the edge portions 9 thereof may be secured to the underside of the base in any suitable manner as by tacks, or the like, not shown.

The material of the intermediate layer 4 may be sponge rubber of a character to provide yieldability and resiliency for supporting the upper layer 6.

The material of the upper layer 6 may be foam rubber of a character having more yieldability and resiliency than the intermediate layer 4.

Other materials may be employed for the layers 4 and 6 which will provide the relative yieldability and resiliency and the layers may be secured together by cementing if desired. Likewise the intermediate layer may be secured to the base.

The relative yieldability of the layers is important for the reason the yieldability of the intermediate layer supported by the base is necessary for the desired functioning of the device while the relatively more yieldable and resilient upper layer obviates such stresses and strains on the joints as might unfavorably affect them and the desired functioning of the device. In other words, the intermediate layer is yieldable for the proper functioning of the device but the patient is cushioned by the upper layer against any un-

favorable action of the less yieldable layer therebelow.

As a special feature of the invention, the upper surface of the intermediate layer is provided with a transverse groove 10 disposed intermediate the ends of the device.

With the device beneath the back of the patient and extending transversely of the spinal structure, the upper layer 6 is unsupported by the intermediate layer at the groove so that the upper layer is very yieldable at this point and may be readily depressed by the vertebrae of the patient. The support therefor may function as desired without undue pressure or stresses on the region of the spine.

The invention may be embodied in other specific forms without departing from the essential characteristics thereof. Hence, the present embodiments are therefore to be considered in all respects merely as being illustrative and not as being restrictive, the scope of the invention being indicated by the appended claims rather than by the foregoing description, and all modifications and variations as fall within the meaning and purview and range of equivalency of the appended claims are therefore intended to be embraced therein.

What it is desired to claim and secure by Letters Patent of the United States is:

1. An anatomical support for underlying and supporting the back region of a patient comprising in combination, an elongated base member having upper and lower flat faces and opposite side and end angularly related edges, an elongated intermediate member having a lower face parallel to and in contiguous relation with the upper face of the base and provided with an upper flat face, an elongated upper member having a lower flat face parallel to and in contiguous relation with the upper face of the intermediate member and provided with an upper face, the side and end edges of the intermediate and upper members being in alignment with corresponding edges of the base member, and a flexible covering enclosing the upper face of the upper member and side and end edges of the said members having edge portions secured to said base, said base member being formed from relatively rigid material and said intermediate member being formed from material relatively more yieldable and resilient than that of said base member and said upper member being formed from material relatively more resilient and yieldable than that of said intermediate member.

2. An anatomical support for underlying and supporting the back region of a patient comprising in combination, an elongated base member having upper and lower flat faces and opposite side and end angularly related edges, an elongated intermediate member having a lower face parallel to and in contiguous relation with the upper face of the base and provided with an upper flat face, an elongated upper member having a lower flat face parallel to and in contiguous relation with the upper face of the intermediate member and provided with an upper face, the side and end edges of the intermediate and upper members being in alignment with corresponding edges of the base member, and a flexible covering enclosing the upper face of the upper member and side and end edges of the said members having edge portions secured to said base, said base member being formed from relatively rigid material and said intermediate member being formed from material relatively more yieldable and resilient than that of said base member and said upper member being formed from material relatively more resilient and yieldable than that of said intermediate member, said intermediate member provided intermediate its opposite ends with a transverse groove across the upper face thereof forming a space between said groove and the lower face of the upper member and providing a portion of said upper member over said groove which is unsupported by said intermediate member.

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