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3,334,626

INJURY PROTECTOR

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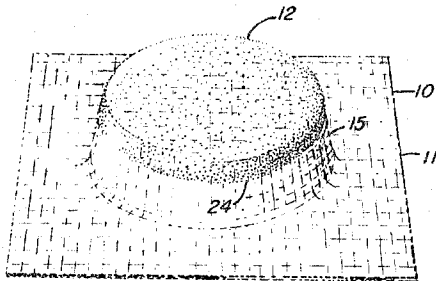


FIG. 1

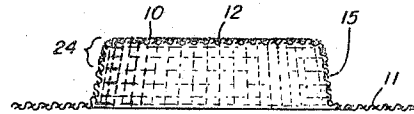


FIG. 2

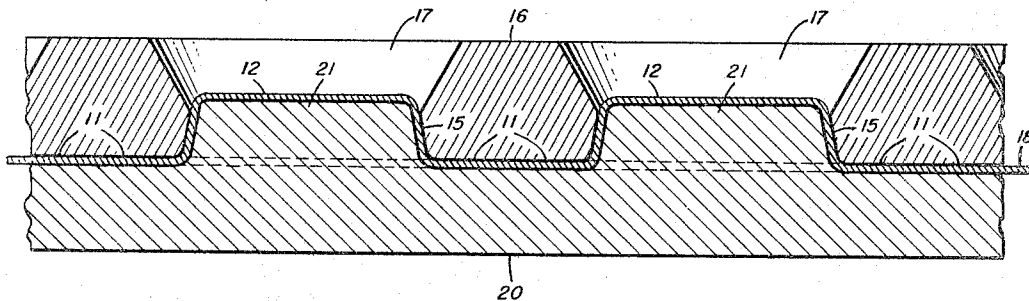


FIG. 3

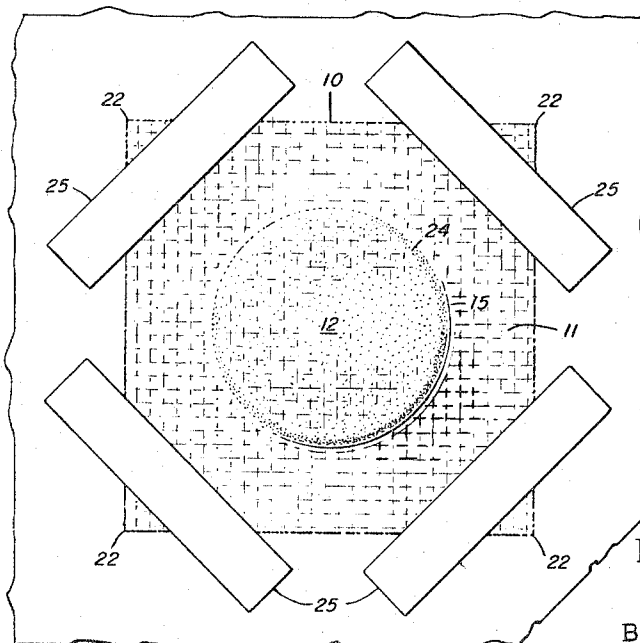


FIG. 4

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This invention relates to surgical bandages and has for its principal object the provision of an inexpensive but practical protective device for minor injuries, particularly suited for the quick healing of small wounds of children.

A further object of the invention is to provide a protective device which can readily be nested and because of its low cost and easy application and removal can be replaced at reasonable intervals so that the patient may constantly have a clean bandage and be less liable to try to tear off the protector and possibly the incrustation formed over the injury.

A still further object of the invention is to provide a sterile soft gauze brim formed with an integral crown stiffened sufficiently to insure against contact with the wound or erupted area and that the portion of the protector above the brim is well open so as to insure admission of plenty of fresh air while preventing the gauze from touching the wound it overlies.

An important object of the invention is to provide a protector which does not touch the injury and is therefore more satisfactory than the present gauze bandages which do make contact with the wound and sometimes become affixed to the seat.

In the drawings:

FIGURE 1 is a perspective view of my invention;

FIGURE 2 is a transverse cross-section;

FIGURE 3 is a fragmentary sectional view showing a die for forming a hatlike portion in a gauze sheet; and

FIGURE 4 is a top plan view of the device as seen when attached to the skin by means of a plurality of short narrow strips.

Referring now to the drawing, the injury protector is a one-piece device 10 formed by dies of usual kind, a fragmentary section of which is illustrated in FIGURE 3, into the form illustrated which consists of a flat brim 11 preferably of rectangular form, a round crown 12 and an intermediate conical portion 15 joining the base and crown and tapering from cylindrical only enough to allow for ready nesting of a series of such protectors in a suitable container (not shown).

In FIGURE 3 the matrix 16 of the die may have a single hole 17 but usually would have a great many such holes and would be used with a large sheet 18 of soft sterilized gauze with a mesh of about 24 x 38. The corresponding bottom piece or punch 20 of the die has a cooperating series of knobs or bosses 23 which fit the holes 17 with the sheet 18 between. With the matrix and punch thus assembled the crown or crowns are dampened with water and an antiseptic powder is then dusted on the

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moist crowns and by capillary action is carried to a narrow zone 24 at the top of the conical portion 15. The die is held closed until the water has evaporated which will leave the crown 7 and the zone 24 stiffened to such an extent as to hold its shape and to lessen the danger of the crown being brought into contact with the protected area while allowing for ample circulation of air below the zone.

The protector is light in weight and presents a soft base area which may readily be attached to the skin by means of adhesive strips 21, the hatlike portion overlying the wound or erupted area without touching the same and yet protecting such area against abrasion or being struck by extraneous objects. The unstiffened mesh at the bottom of the conical portion permits air contact with the wound and therefore greatly facilitates healing of the wound which may be a mere scratch or cut.

The method of attaching the device to the patient may be widely varied. In FIGURE 4 four strips 21 are cut from a customary adhesive roll partly split longitudinally and each strip is placed diagonally across a corner 22 of the brim, overlapping just enough to be sure of securing the device in place. Strips a bit longer than the diameter of the crown but less than the shorter dimension of the brim are quite satisfactory. Two parallel strips are often sufficient. As soon as adhesive rolls including Teflon are available they also may be used.

What I claim is:

1. A protector for minor injuries consisting of a one-piece device of soft, open mesh gauze including a flat brim-like base, a round crown parallel with the base, and an intermediate conical portion joining the crown and the base, said conical portion tapering from cylindrical only enough to permit ready nesting of a series of such protectors, said crown having an antiseptic compound dispersed therein which when moistened and then dried will stiffen the crown and a proximate zone of the conical portion thereby to minimize chance of the crown being brought into contact with the protected area.

2. The protector of claim 1 in which the base is rectangular and the device is provided with a plurality of parallel narrow strips coated with easy-off adhesive material such as Telfa, for attachment of said device to the patient, each strip overlapping two adjacent sides of the base whereby to minimize the area of adhesive contact with the patient, each strip having a length between the diameter of the crown and the minimum dimension of one of the sides of the brim.

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