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B. N. SHIRROD

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RESTRAINING BELT

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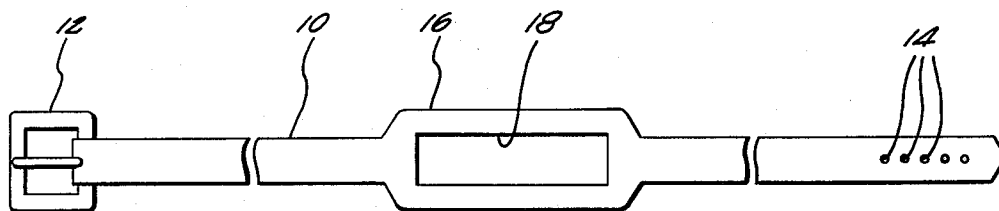


FIG. 1

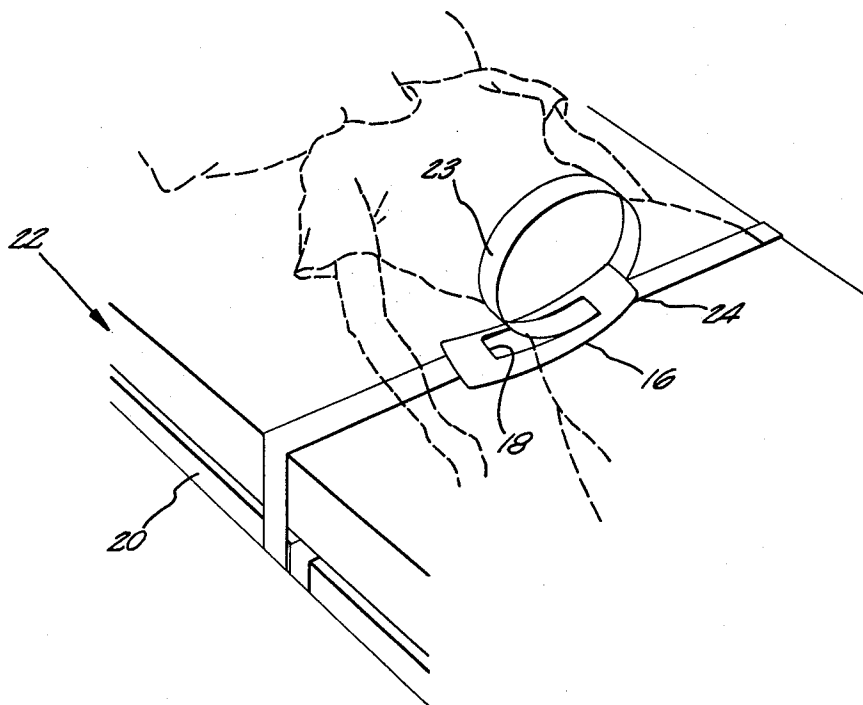


FIG. 2

INVENTOR.
BARBARA N. SHIRROD
BY
Christie, Parker & Hale
ATTORNEYS.

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RESTRAINING BELT

Barbara N. Shirrod, San Diego, Calif., assignor to
J. Thornton Posey, Altadena, Calif.
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This invention provides a belt for restraining a patient in bed, and yet permitting him to roll from side to side comfortably.

It is often necessary to restrain patients in bed, and yet provide a suitable degree of freedom to prevent discomfort. Many of the restraining belts now in use are cumbersome, or impose uncomfortable friction on a patient as he attempts limited movement within the bed in which he is restrained. This invention provides a restraining belt which keeps a patient in bed, yet literally rolls with the patient to permit limited movement with comfort and without friction.

Briefly, the belt is an elongated strap which has a slot in its intermediate portion to permit one end of the strap to be disposed through the slot and form a restraining loop for the patient.

Preferably, opposite ends of the belt are secured to the sides of the bed, or are wrapped around the side rails of the bed, and secured together underneath the bed. The slot in the strap is elongated and has a length about equal to that of the width of the patient at his waist. Preferably, the slot is about as wide as the end of the belt which fits through it so that there is no wrinkling of the belt when it is disposed through the slot.

Thus, with the restraining loop disposed around the patient, the slot in the belt permits the patient to roll from side to side without friction, without binding, and with safety and comfort.

These and other aspects of the invention will be more fully understood from the following detailed description and the accompanying drawings, in which:

FIG. 1 is a fragmentary perspective view of the presently preferred embodiment of the invention; and

FIG. 2 is a perspective view showing the belt installed to restrain a patient.

Referring to FIG. 1, the belt includes an elongated strap 10 having a buckle 12 secured to one end. The intermediate portion of the belt includes an enlarged section or pad 16 which has an elongated slot 18 of slightly greater width than the end portions of the strap. The slot can be any suitable length, but preferably it is about the same as the width of the patient at his stomach.

The strap can be made of any suitable material, but preferably it is of strong reinforced webbing which can be laundered by ordinary means. The belt can also be made in small, medium, and large sizes to accommodate patients of different ages and sizes.

To use the belt, the buckle end of the strap is wrapped around a side rail 20 of a bed 22, as shown in FIG. 2. The pad 16 of the strap is placed flat in the center of the bed. The patient is placed on the pad and turned on his side (left, as viewed in FIG. 2). The free end of the strap is looped back over the patient and threaded through the slot in the pad. The patient is then rolled to the opposite side, and the free end of the strap is drawn through the slot until it is comfortably secure around the patient's waist. Thus, a portion of the belt forms a snug restraining loop 23 around the patient's waist. The free end of the strap with the holes 14 is

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wrapped around the opposite side rail (not shown) once to anchor the entire belt and patient in the center of the bed. The ends of the belt are then buckled together under the bed and out of the patient's sight and reach.

Once the belt is on the patient, it does not change adjustment. However, the patient is able to turn from side to side within the limits provided by the length of the slot in the pad. For example, if the patient rolls on his right side, the right (as viewed in FIG. 2) end 24 of the pad is free to follow him for a limited distance. On the other hand, if the patient rolls on his left side, the restraining loop 23 is free to travel the distance permitted by the slot 18. If it is desirable for the patient to sit up, a little slack is provided in the belt between the portions secured to the side rail and including the pad.

I claim:

1. A belt for restraining a patient in bed and permitting the patient to roll from side to side, the belt comprising an elongated strap having an elongated slot in its intermediate portion to permit one end of the strap to be disposed through the slot and form a restraining loop for the patient.

2. A belt for restraining a patient in bed and permitting the patient to roll from side to side, the belt comprising an elongated strap having an elongated slot in its intermediate portion to permit one end of the strap to be disposed through the slot and form a restraining loop for the patient, the width of the slot being slightly greater than the said one end of the strap to permit the strap to form the restraining loop without wrinkling.

3. A belt for restraining a patient in bed and permitting the patient to roll from side to side, the belt comprising an elongated strap having an intermediate portion of increased width and having an elongated slot in the wider portion to permit one end of the strap to be disposed through the slot and form a restraining loop for the patient.

4. A belt for restraining a patient in bed and permitting the patient to roll from side to side, the belt comprising an elongated strap having an elongated slot in its intermediate portion to permit one end of the strap to be disposed through the slot and form a restraining loop for the patient, and means for securing the belt to the bed.

5. A belt for restraining a patient in bed and permitting the patient to roll from side to side, the bed having side rails, the belt comprising an elongated strap having an elongated slot in its intermediate portion to permit one end of the strap to be disposed through the slot and form a restraining loop for the patient, the strap on each side of the slot being wrapped around a respective side rail of the bed.

6. A belt for restraining a patient in bed and permitting the patient to roll from side to side, the belt comprising an elongated strap having an elongated slot in its intermediate portion to permit one end of the strap to be disposed through the slot and form a restraining loop for the patient, and means for securing the ends of the strap together.

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FRANK B. SHERRY, Primary Examiner.