Aug. 1, 1967 L. B. BOISVERT 3,333,340

MOUTH PROTECTOR FOR A SALIVA EJECTOR

Filed March 24, 1965

Fig. 1.

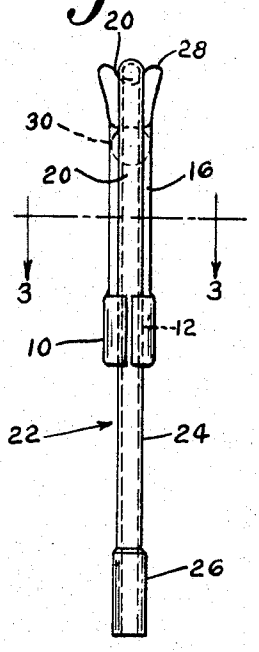


Fig. 2.

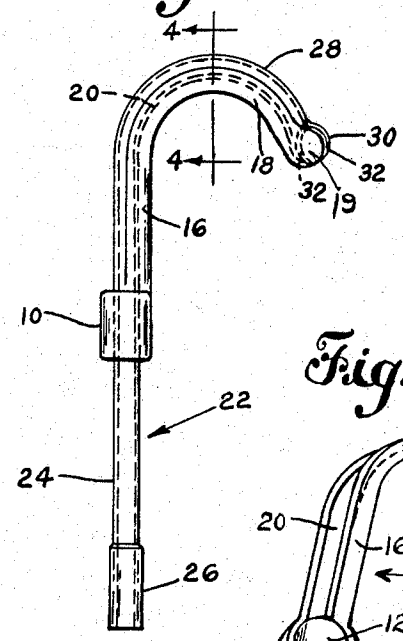


Fig. 5.

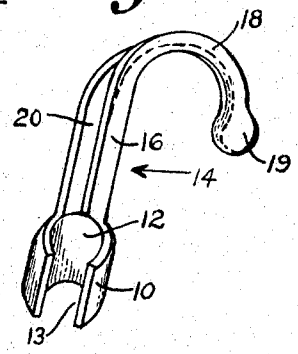


Fig. 3.

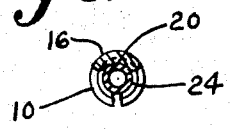


Fig. 4.

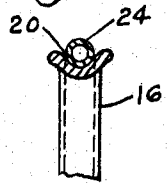
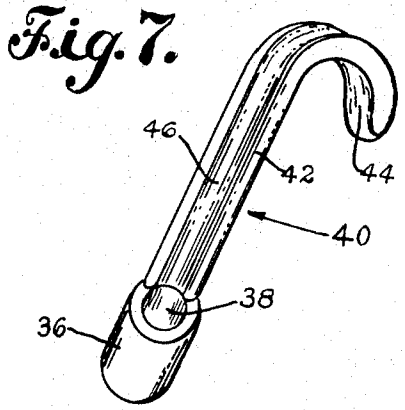


Fig. 6.

Fig. 7.



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MOUTH PROTECTOR FOR A SALIVA EJECTOR

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This invention relates to a mouth protector especially for use with a saliva ejector.

Saliva ejectors are commonly used by dentists, as in filling a patient's tooth. The gooseneck portion of said ejector rests directly on a patient's lip and may contact his teeth and also his gums and other parts of his mouth. To use the same ejector on different persons is unsanitary and may transfer disease from one patient to another unless said ejector is thoroughly sterilized before each use, which is time consuming and may be neglected.

Accordingly, one object of my invention is to provide a protector for use with a saliva ejector that will rest directly on the lip and other parts of the mouth where the ejector ordinarily would make contact therewith. Since my protector may be made of inexpensive material, such as plastic, it may be discarded after one use, thus providing assurance to a patient that the protector is used on him alone.

Another object is to provide said protector with a retainer portion whereby it will receive and retain said ejector and protector together.

A further object is to provide said protector with a receiving groove, so that the ejector will assume a predetermined position in contact with said protector and remain there throughout the period of use on a patient.

A still further object is to so construct said protector that it can be made integral, in large quantities, of relatively inexpensive material, hence can be produced at such a low cost that one can afford to discard the protector after one use.

The foregoing and other objects which will appear as the nature of the invention is better understood, may be accomplished by a construction, combination and arrangement such as is disclosed by the drawing. The nature of the invention is such as to render its susceptible to various changes and modifications, and therefore, I am not to be limited to the construction disclosed by the drawing nor to the particular parts described in the specification; but am entitled to all such changes therefrom as fall within the scope of my claims.

In the drawing:

FIG. 1 is a front elevational view showing my mouth protector as used in association with a saliva ejector.

FIG. 2 is a side elevational view of the protector and saliva ejector as shown in said FIG. 1.

FIG. 3 is a sectional view taken on the line 3—3 of FIG. 1.

FIG. 4 is a sectional view taken on the line 4—4 of FIG. 2.

FIG. 5 is an enlarged, perspective view of my protector.

FIG. 6 is a perspective view showing the manner in which my protector in association with a saliva ejector is used by a patient.

FIG. 7 is a perspective view of a modified form of my protector.

As illustrated, my mouth protector has a retainer portion 10, shown as a clasp, that has an opening 12 including a laterally extending opening 13 therein. Extending from said retainer portion 10 is a protector portion 14 that has a straight portion 16 extending directly from said retainer portion 10 and from which extends a gooseneck or U-shaped portion 18 terminating with a widened end portion 19. Said protector portion 14 has an inwardly extending groove 20 intermediate opposite sides thereof that receives the usual saliva ejector.

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Said saliva ejector 22 is hollow and it has the usual straight portion 24 that terminates in an open or discharge end 26. Extending from said straight portion 24 is a gooseneck or U-shaped portion 28 that fits in said protector groove 20, terminating in a head 30 having slits or small holes 32 therein.

Said ejector portion 24 is inserted through said retainer portion opening 13 which is shown with said opening 13 in said FIG. 5 as it would be when spread open to receive portion 24. Part of said ejector straight portion 24 extends into said groove 20 as does said gooseneck portion 28.

As will be noted in said FIG. 6, said gooseneck portion 18 of my protector will rest directly on the patient's lip and otherwise make some contact with the patient's teeth and mouth. Since said protector may be made of a relatively inexpensive material, when it once has been used, it is separated from the saliva ejector and discarded.

In FIG. 7 of the drawing I show a modified form of protector in which a retainer portion 36 has an opening 38 therethrough that is enclosed. Extending from said retainer portion 36 is a protector portion 40 having a straight portion 42 from which extends a gooseneck or U-shaped portion 44. Said protector portion 40 has an inwardly extending groove 46 that receives said ejector. The discharge end 26 of the latter is inserted through said opening 38 and said protector portion 40 receives said ejector as previously explained.

What I claim is:

1. An integral mouth protector comprising a retainer portion having an opening to receive a saliva ejector, a protector portion extending from said retainer portion embodying a gooseneck portion adapted to receive a portion of a saliva ejector, said protector portion having an elongate, continuous external groove therein for its full length thereof in which a said saliva ejector portion is adapted to enter, said gooseneck portion being open and wider than the portion adjoining it at the end extremity only.

2. A mouth protector as set forth in claim 1, said retainer portion being at the end extremity of said protector portion and having a lateral opening extending continuously between the upper and lower extremities thereof whereby a saliva ejector may be received therethrough.

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