

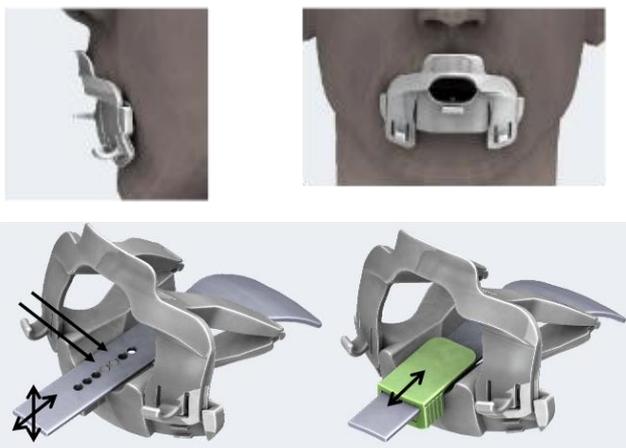
MOUTH PROTECTOR DEVICE WITH TONGUE DEPRESSOR

Introduction

In routine clinical practice there are various interventions and diagnostic tests, e.g. endoscopy, fibrobronchoscopy, transesophageal echocardiography, etc., wherein it is necessary to insert different instruments, either in the digestive tract or in the respiratory tract, through the patient's mouth. There are numerous protectors used in these interventions, but they are normally limited to protecting the medical material inserted into the mouth and, to a lesser extent, the patient's teeth. It is also typical that during the performance of these tests the use of sedation is necessary so that the procedure is better tolerated, which prevents and hinders the normal breathing of the patient, largely due to the depressant effect that the drugs exert on the muscles of the tongue and oropharynx. When the typical protectors are positioned in the patient's mouth, they move the tongue backwards, in a way that hinders both the correct ventilation of the patient and the introduction of the instruments into the oral cavity. In addition, one of the main reasons for lawsuits from patients who have been anesthetized arises from the breakage of teeth due to the use of laryngoscopy for orotracheal intubation (necessary to establish mechanical ventilation for any type of general anesthesia), since there is no systematic use of protective measures to prevent such breakage. And also it is important to highlight that the higher morbidity and mortality of general anesthesia is associated with complications related to difficult access to the airways in certain patients.

Product

The object of the invention consists of a mouth protector device which incorporates a tongue depressor, designed to be inserted in the patient's mouth and hold it open to perform diagnostic tests or surgical operations that require instruments to be inserted through the oral cavity, which avoids the aforementioned problems.



State of development

This device has a prototype which has to be validated.

Application

A lot of interventions carried out with sedation and that need the introduction of medical instruments through the oral cavity are performed daily. Thus, a large number of patients and professionals will benefit from the use of this device. The device would have applicability in interventions as:

- Digestive endoscopy
- Fibrobronchoscopy
- Transesophageal echocardiography
- Orotracheal intubation and mechanical ventilation

Also with our device and a modified tongue depressor we propose a different intubation technique never described before, easier and safer, even in no experienced hands.

Advantages

- **Avoid obstruction of the airway and improves ventilation** avoiding the protrusion of the tongue as well as his subsequent fall into the oropharynx by the effects of anesthetic drugs.
- **Avoid injuries and minimizes oral damage**, as adequately protecting lips, teeth and tongue.
- **Improved handling** and introduction of instruments through the mouth
- Facilitates performance of procedures, **maximizing the mouth opening** and allowing easy access to the oropharyngeal cavity.
- Provides a new intubation technique, **easier and safer**.

IPR

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