



Lip Protector

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SUMMARY

UCLA researchers in the David Geffen School of Medicine have designed a protector for lip and tooth during intubation process.

BACKGROUND

General anesthesia usually requires an artificial airway or breathing tube to be placed in a patient’s mouth or throat in order to help with proper breathing during medical procedure. Even with skilled anesthesiologists, insertion of these devices can cause damage to the teeth or soft tissue of the mouth or nose, especially when placement of breathing tube is difficult and requires some degree of force. Lacerations or bruising to the lips and tongue occurs in about 1 in 20 general anesthetics, and damage to the teeth, especially the upper front teeth, or dental work (i.e. crowns, bridges or veneers) occurs in 1 in 4,500 general anesthetics. These non-negligible numbers of patients suffer from lip and tooth injuries during intubation highlights the need for a protective measure in order to reduce intubation-related complications.

INNOVATION

Researchers at UCLA have designed a lip and tooth protector for preventing damage during the intubation process in general anesthesia, laryngoscopy and intensive care.

ADVANTAGES

Protects patient’s lip and teeth while not obstructing the view of the anesthetist during intubation

STATE OF DEVELOPMENT

Device prototype is available.

PATENT STATUS

Patent Pending

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INVENTORS

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OTHER INFORMATION

KEYWORDS

Intubation, tracheal intubation, lip protector, tooth protector, general anesthesia

CATEGORIZED AS

- Medical
- Devices

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