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United States Patent [19]

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Simmons et al.

[45] Date of Patent: **May 19, 1998**

[54] **UNIVERSAL MEDICAL TUBE RETAINER AND NASAL WALL TISSUE DILATOR**

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[21] Appl. No.: **755,404**

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[22] Filed: **Nov. 22, 1996**

[51] Int. Cl.⁶ **A61M 15/08**

[57] ABSTRACT

[52] U.S. Cl. **128/207.18; 128/206.11; 128/206.14; 128/DIG. 26**

A method for expanding the volume of interior nasal air passages (**65** and **67**) by introducing separating forces in anatomical outer nasal wall tissues (**62** and **64**) to enhance oxygen flow and minimize obstruction caused by the presence of nasally inserted medical tubing, which further supports and retains various combinations of oxygen cannula (**68**), a nasogastric suction tube (**35**), or an enteral feeding tube (**40**). This method includes a device containing a clip assembly (**14**), adjustable arm (**18**) and dilator patch assembly (**12**). The primary purposes of this method are to reduce incidence of secondary infection, increase efficacy of oxygen therapy and improve patient comfort.

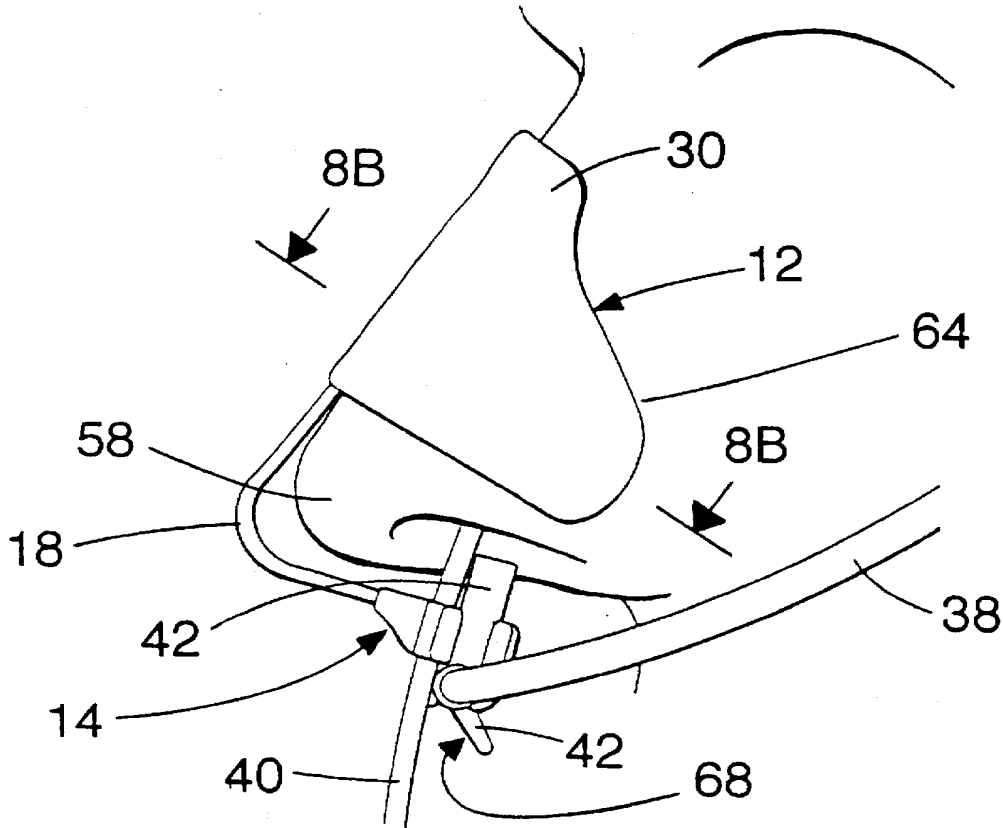
[58] Field of Search 128/206.11, 206.14, 128/206.18, 207.18, DIG. 26; 604/177, 180

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16 Claims, 6 Drawing Sheets



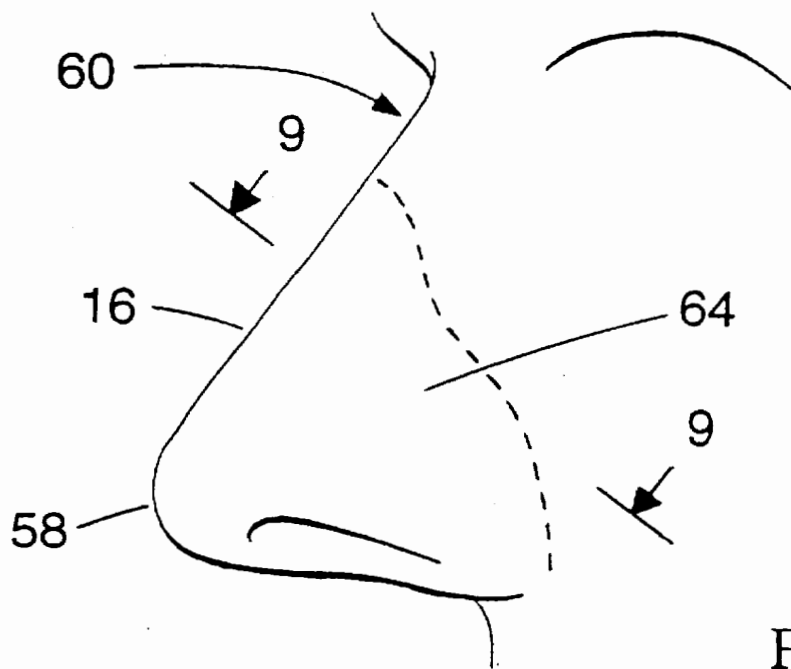


FIG. 1

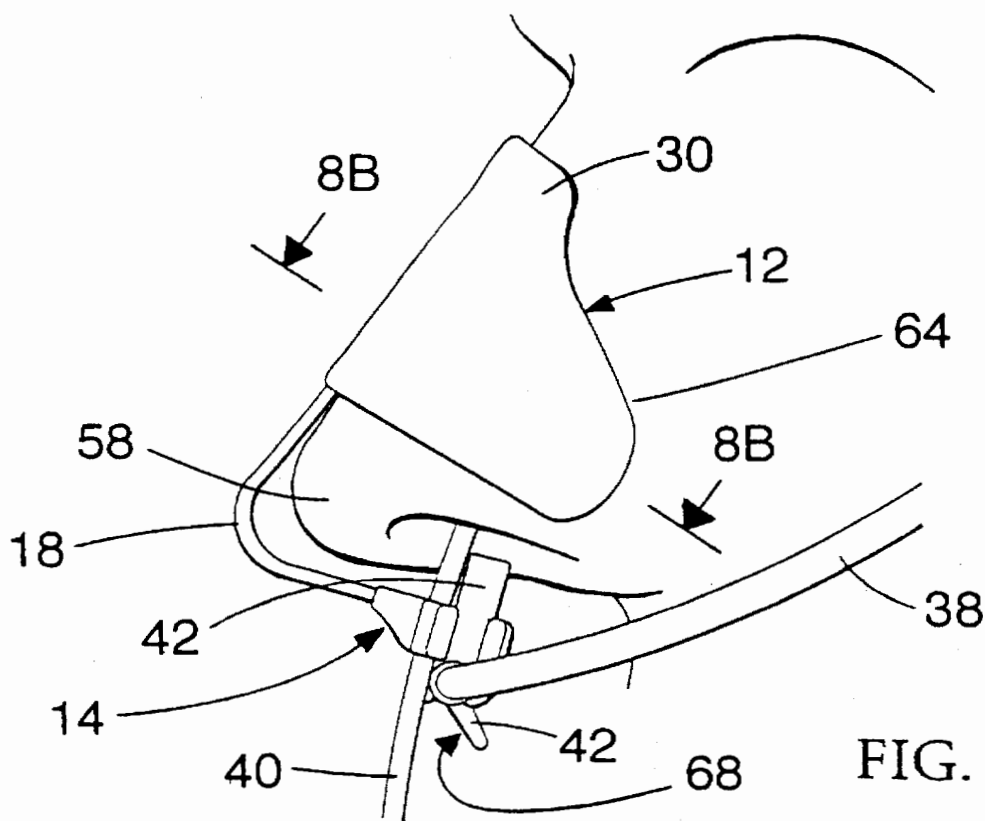


FIG. 2

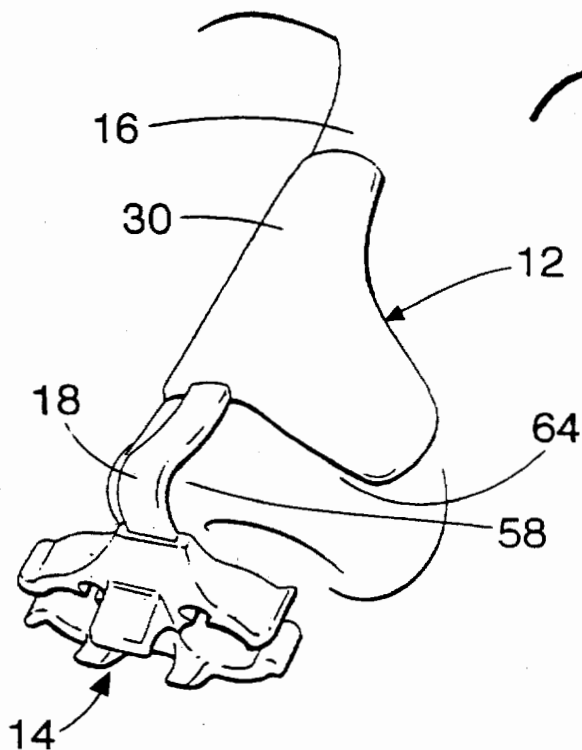


FIG. 3

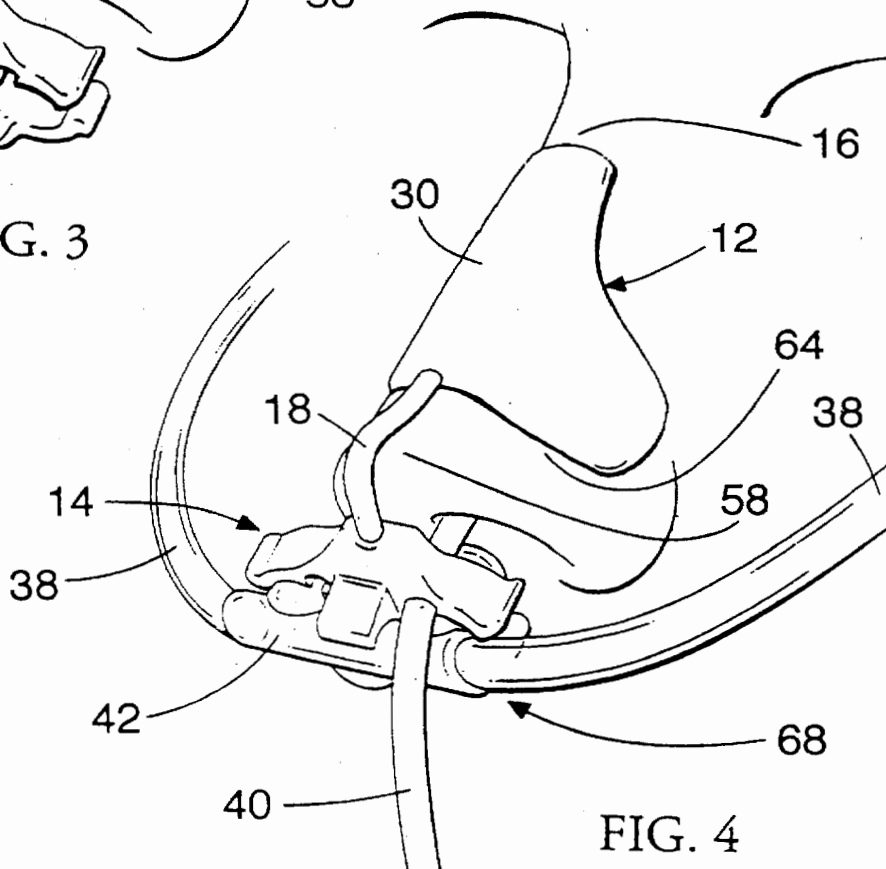


FIG. 4

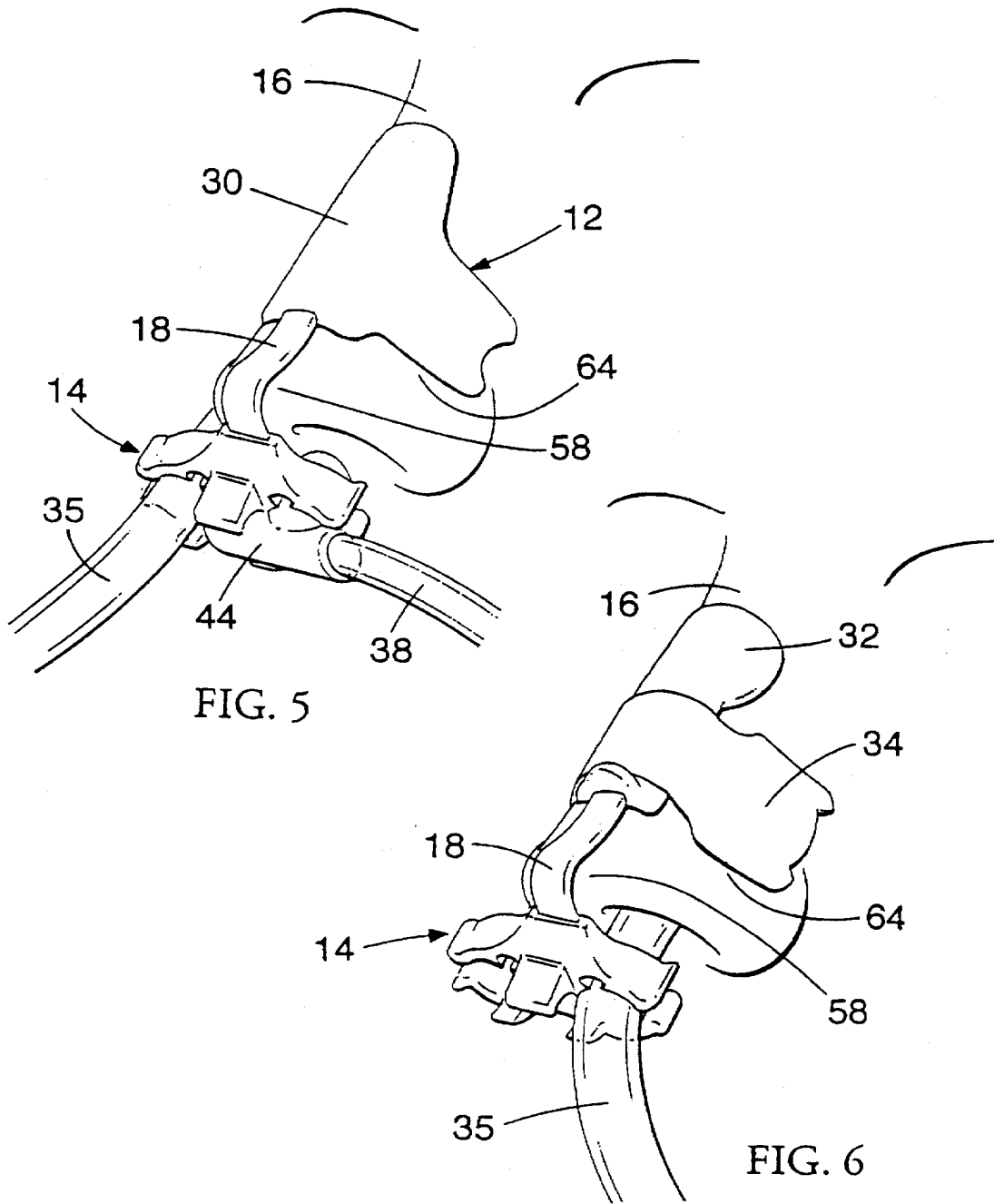


FIG. 5

FIG. 6

FIG. 7 A

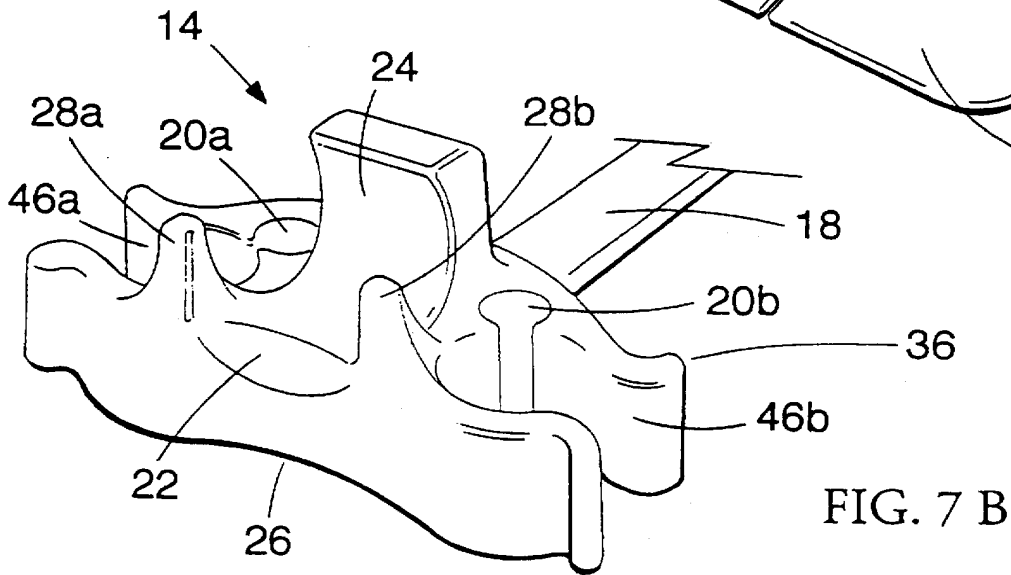
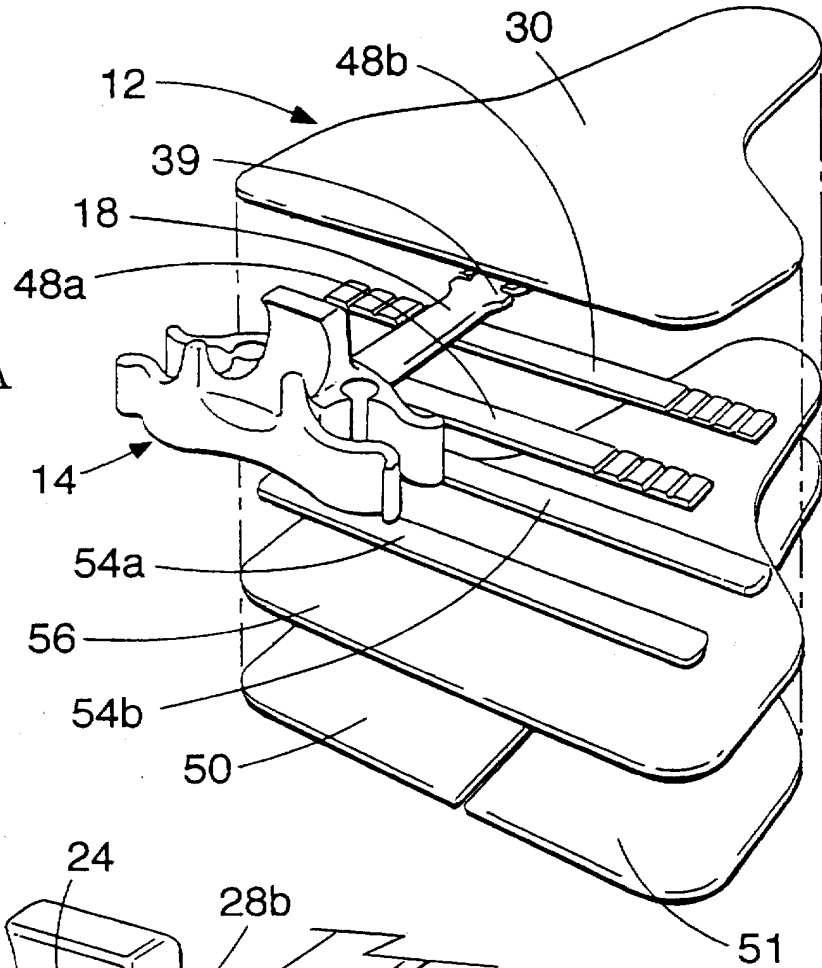


FIG. 7 B

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