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(54) Title: TRACTION FORCE SENSING VACUUM EXTRACTOR**(57) Abstract**

A vacuum extractor (100) for use in childbirth is described. The vacuum extractor (100) includes a handle (110), and a vacuum cup (120) with a force sensor (130) coupled to the vacuum extractor (100). The force sensor (130) measures the traction force applied between the vacuum cup (120), and the handle (110) for assisting the birthing attendant in applying an appropriate traction force. The force sensor (130) may also include a slipping mechanism which causes the length of the force sensor (130) to distinctly increase if the applied traction force exceeds a certain level such as twenty pounds. Thus, the birthing attendant may feel the slipping, and thus determine that the traction force has exceeded the certain value.

