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(54) Title: COMPRESSION DEVICE FOR ABNORMAL ESOPHAGEAL SPHINCTER FUNCTIONALITY

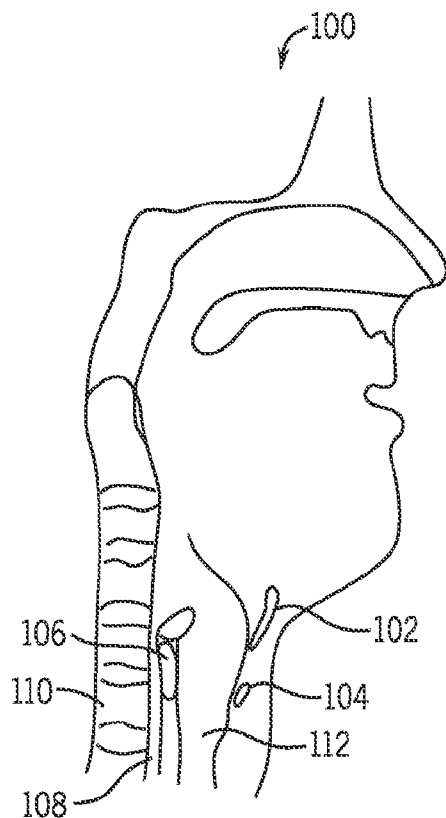


FIG. 1

(57) Abstract: A compression device is used to increase intra-luminal pressure within the upper esophageal sphincter of a patient in order to relieve an impact of an abnormal or defective upper esophageal sphincter anatomy, physiology, or functionality. In one implementation, the compression device is used in conjunction with an external pressure sensing device to determine the external pressure that is to be applied to the cricoid for a specific patient. The compression device can be a means for the management and/or treatment of abnormal upper esophageal sphincter functionality, or a means for strengthening an esophageal sphincter of a subject, or a means for curing esophageal reflux disease of a subject, or a means for improving vocal function in a subject, or a means for managing lung aspiration, or a means for applying cricoid pressure during anesthesia intubation, or a means for stabilizing body structures such as during medical imaging or radiation treatment.



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