Claims

1. An airway device for human or animal use, the device includes an airway tube having a first end and a second end, the first end of the airway tube is surrounded by a laryngeal cuff, the laryngeal cuff includes a back dorsal portion, a front face portion and a tip portion, the front face portion of the laryngeal cuff is shaped to form an anatomical fit over the laryngeal inlet of a human or animal patient, and to form a seal with the laryngeal inlet of the patient, wherein the tip portion includes an annular sealing bulge.

2. An airway device as claimed in Claim 1 where the annular sealing bulge is configured to wedge into upper oesophagus region of the human or animal patient.

3. An airway device as claimed in Claim 1 or Claim 2 wherein the annular sealing bulge is provided for improved sealing of the tip of the laryngeal cuff in the upper oesophageal region of the human or animal patient.

4. An airway device as claimed in any preceding claim wherein the annular sealing bulge is formed from a soft polymeric or other plastics material.

5. An airway device as claimed in Claim 4 wherein the annular sealing bulge is formed from a soft polymeric or other plastics material with a Shore hardness of between 40 and 000 on the A scale.

6. An airway device as claimed in any preceding claim wherein the annular sealing bulge is provided with a contoured surface.

7. An airway device as claimed in Claim 6 wherein the contoured surface reduces the surface areas of the annular sealing bulge that is in contact with the upper oesophageal features of the patient when in situ in the patient to reduce trauma resulting from contact between the bulge and such features whilst still creating a good seal therewith.

8. An airway device as claimed in Claim 6 wherein the contoured surface is a dimpled surface.

9. An airway device as claimed in Claim 6 wherein the contoured surface is a pimpled surface.

10. An airway device as claimed in Claim 6 wherein the contoured surface is provided with a series of ridges.

11. An airway device as claimed in Claim 6 wherein the contoured surface is provided with a series of indentations.

12. An airway device as claimed in Claim 6 wherein the contoured surface is provided with a series of valleys.

13. An airway device as claimed in Claim 6 wherein the contoured surface is provided with a series of protrusions.

14. An airway device as claimed in any preceding claims where the annular sealing bulge is larger on the front face portion of the tip than on the dorsal portion of the tip.

15. An airway device as claimed in Claim 14 where the annular sealing bulge on the front face portion of the tip is provided with a inner core formed from a rigid material covered or coated with a soft polymeric or other plastics material with a Shore hardness of between 40 and 000 on the A scale.

16. An airway device substantially as hereinbefore described with reference to and as illustrated in any combination of the accompanying figures.

Claims

1. An airway device for human or animal use, the device includes an airway tube having a first end and a second end, the first end of the airway tube is surrounded by a laryngeal cuff, the laryngeal cuff includes a back dorsal portion, a front face portion and a tip portion, the front face portion of the laryngeal cuff is shaped to form an anatomical fit over the laryngeal inlet of a human or animal patient, and to form a seal with the laryngeal inlet of the patient, wherein the tip portion includes an unsymmetrical annular sealing bulge, where the annular sealing bulge is larger on the front face portion of the tip than on the dorsal portion of the tip.

2. An airway device as claimed in Claim 1 where the annular sealing bulge is configured to wedge into upper oesophagus region of the human or animal patient.

3. An airway device as claimed in Claim 1 or Claim 2 wherein the annular sealing bulge is provided for improved sealing of the tip of the laryngeal cuff in the upper oesophageal region of the human or animal patient.

4. An airway device as claimed in any preceding claim wherein the annular sealing bulge is formed from a soft polymeric or other plastics material.

5. An airway device as claimed in Claim 4 wherein the annular sealing bulge is formed from a soft polymeric or other plastics material with a Shore hardness of between 40 and 000 on the A scale.

6. An airway device as claimed in any preceding claim wherein the annular sealing bulge is provided with a contoured surface.

7. An airway device as claimed in Claim 6 wherein the contoured surface reduces the surface areas of the annular sealing bulge that is in contact with the upper oesophageal features of the patient when in situ in the patient to reduce trauma resulting from contact between the bulge and such features whilst still creating a good seal therewith.

8. An airway device as claimed in Claim 6 wherein the contoured surface is a dimpled surface.

9. An airway device as claimed in Claim 6 wherein the contoured surface is a pimpled surface.

10. An airway device as claimed in Claim 6 wherein the contoured surface is provided with a series of ridges.

11. An airway device as claimed in Claim 6 wherein the contoured surface is provided with a series of indentations.

12. An airway device as claimed in Claim 6 wherein the contoured surface is provided with a series of valleys.

13. An airway device as claimed in Claim 6 wherein the contoured surface is provided with a series of protrusions.

14. An airway device as claimed in any preceding claim where the annular sealing bulge on the front face portion of the tip is provided with a inner core formed from a rigid material covered or coated with a soft polymeric or other plastics material with a Shore hardness of between 40 and 000 on the A scale.