REPLACEMENT CLAIMS AS AMENDED

1. A method to maintain the euthermic state of a patient during surgical procedures, said method consisting essentially of the steps:

providing a closely fitted surgical cap adapted to extend in close proximity to the head over much of the patient's forehead, over the patient's ears, across the rear to the base of the patient's head, and along a line where the head and the neck meet, wherein said surgical cap lies against said patient's head and is in contact with said forehead, said ears and said base of said patient's head, said surgical cap is further adapted to additionally insulate at least a portion of said patient's head covered by said surgical cap;

covering a substantial portion of said patient's head during a perioperative and/or a postoperative period with said surgical cap;

insulating a greater portion on the anterior of said patient's head with insulation as compared to the rest of said head; and

maintaining said head covering closely fitted to said patient's head during surgery;

wherein said patients head temperature and core body temperature are thereby maintained within a defined temperature range.

2. The method according to claim 1, wherein said surgical cap is made such as to bilaterally grip below the wearer's external auditory meatus and to conform closely to said patient's head.

3. (Canceled)

4. (Canceled)

5. The method according to Claim 1, wherein the insulating a greater portion on the anterior of said patient's head with insulation comprises insulated portions along approximately the central third, the anterior and the posterior of said head.

6. The method of Claim 1, wherein said insulative component covers bilaterally below the midpoint of the external auditory meatus.

7. The method of Claim 6, wherein said insulative component is made of a synthetic microfiber having a composition of approximately 65% olefin and 35% polyester.

8. The method of Claim 1, wherein said specified temperature range is within minus two degrees from the euthermic temperature.

9. (Canceled)

10. (Canceled)

11. (Canceled)

12. (Canceled)

13. (Canceled)

14. (Canceled)

15. (Canceled)

16. A covering unit to assist in maintaining a user's optimal body temperature, said covering unit comprises:

an insulative element that closely fits a portion of said user's head and ears;

a shell component having an inner surface, an outer surface and a lower edge, said inner surface is attached to said insulative element;

a first side panel;

a second side panel;

a top center panel that forms a front, a center and a rear connected to said first side panel and said second side panel;

an information display formed within or attached to said shell component and located at a position that corresponds generally along the centerline of a wearer's head from front to back; and

means to grip formed of a medial and a lateral side panel adapted to cover in close proximity a mid point of the external auditory meatus bilaterally, said means contains the head from shifting and moving when said covering unit is laid on the posterior, the medial or the lateral side of the body.

17. The covering unit in Claim 16, wherein

said information display comprises a user interface ~~display is~~ in wireless operative communication with at least one vital signs sensor; and

said display is positioned about the front upper crown or forehead area of the user's head.

18. The covering unit of Claim 17, wherein said insulative element comprises material having a thickness greater than 2-mm on the areas adapted to cover the posterior, the anterior and the top portions of said head.

19. The covering unit of Claim 17 further comprises a material having a thickness less than 2-mm at the areas adapted to cover both lateral side portions of the head.

20. (Canceled

21. (Canceled)

22. (Canceled)

23. (Canceled)

24. (New) The covering unit in Claims 24, wherein said insulative component is selected from the group comprising a ceramic fiber material, a phase change material and a synthetic microfiber.

25. (New) The covering unit of Claim 16, wherein said insulative element covers a rear

portion of said covering unit such as to cover said head and the upper neck region of said user.

26. (New) The covering unit of Claim 16, wherein said shell component is made from a flexible material that can expand to fit different sized heads.

27. (New) The covering unit of Claim 25, wherein said shell component is made of an anti-static material.

28. (New) The covering unit of Claim 28, wherein said covering unit is made from an asymmetric pattern cut from a section of said covering unit adapted to cover the front of said head and a section of said covering unit adapted to cover said rear of said head such that said pattern is concave so as to emulate the shape of the front and the rear of said head and to prohibit said covering unit from falling off.

29. (New) The covering unit in Claim 28, wherein said insulative component is selected from the group comprising a ceramic fiber material, a phase change material and a synthetic microfiber.

30. (New) A method to maintain the euthermic state, said method comprises the steps:

providing a closely fitted covering unit adapted to extend in close proximity to the head

over much of the user's forehead, over the user's ears, across the rear to the base of the user's head, and along a line where the head and the neck meet, wherein said covering unit is further comprises a vital signs display mechanism formed within or attached to said shell component and located at a position that corresponds generally along the centerline of a wearer's head from front to back, wherein said covering unit further lies against said user's head and is in contact with said forehead, said ears and said base of said user's head, said covering unit is further adapted to additionally insulate at least a portion of said user's head covered by said covering unit;

placing of said vital signs display mechanisms at a location to provide optimum visibility to rescue personnel;

wirelessly communicating at least one vital signs sensor affixed to a patient's body with said vital signs display mechanism;

covering a substantial portion of said user's head prior in conjunctions with the donning of a life vest; and

maintaining said head covering closely fitted to said user's head during a rescue event.

31. (New) The method according to claim 30, wherein said covering unit is made such as to bilaterally grip below the wearer's external auditory meatus and to conform closely to said user's head.

32. (New) The method according to claim 31, further comprises the step of insulating a

greater portion on the anterior of said user's head with insulation as compared to the rest of said head.

33. (New) The method according to Claim 32, wherein the portions of said user's head that is insulated are the portions along approximately the central third, the anterior and the posterior of said head.

Respectfully submitted,

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CLAIMS

1. A covering unit to assist in maintaining a user's optimal body temperature, the covering unit comprising:

an insulative element that closely fits a portion of the user's head and ears;

a shell component having an inner surface, an outer surface and a lower edge, the inner surface being attached to the insulative element;

a first side panel;

a second side panel;

a top center panel that forms a front, a center and a rear connected to the first side panel and the second side panel;

an information display formed within or attached to the shell component and located at a position that corresponds generally along the centerline of a wearer's head from front to back and positioned about the front upper crown or forehead area of the user's head;

a GPS sensor incorporated within the shell component

at least one vital signs sensor in operational communication with the information display; and

means to grip formed of a medial and a lateral side panel adapted to cover in close proximity a mid point of the external auditory meatus bilaterally, the means contains the head from shifting and moving when the covering unit is laid on the posterior, the medial or the lateral side of the body.

2. A covering unit according to Claim 1, in which

the information display comprises a user interface in wireless operative communication with the at least one vital signs sensor; and

the at least one vital signs sensor selected from the group consisting of: body temperature; electrocardiogram (ECG); respiratory rate (RR) and End Tidal Carbon Dioxide (ETCO2); heart rate (HR); oxygen saturation (SpO2); photoplethysmography (PPG); blood glucose (BG); carbon monoxide level (SpCO); 10 blood pressure (BP); and hydration levels (HL).

3. A covering unit according to Claim 2, in which the insulative element comprises material having a thickness greater than 2 mm on the areas adapted to cover the posterior, the anterior and the top portions of the head.

4. A covering unit according to Claim 2, further comprising a material having a thickness less than 2-mm at the areas adapted to cover both lateral side portions of the head.

5. A covering unit according to Claim 1, in which the insulative component is selected from the group comprising a ceramic fiber material, a phase change material and a synthetic microfiber.

6. A covering unit according to Claim 1, in which the insulative element covers a rear portion of the covering unit such as to cover the head and the upper neck region of the user.

7. A covering unit according to Claim 1, in which the shell component is made from a flexible material that can expand to fit different sized heads.

8. A covering unit according to Claim 6, in which the shell component is made of an anti-static material.

9. A covering unit according to Claim 1, in which the covering unit is made from an asymmetric pattern cut from a section of the covering unit adapted to cover the front of the head and a section of the covering unit adapted to cover the rear of the head such that the pattern is concave so as to emulate the shape of the front and the rear of the head and to prohibit the covering unit from falling off.

10. A covering unit according to Claim 1, in which the insulative component is selected from the group comprising a ceramic fiber material, a phase change material and a synthetic microfiber.