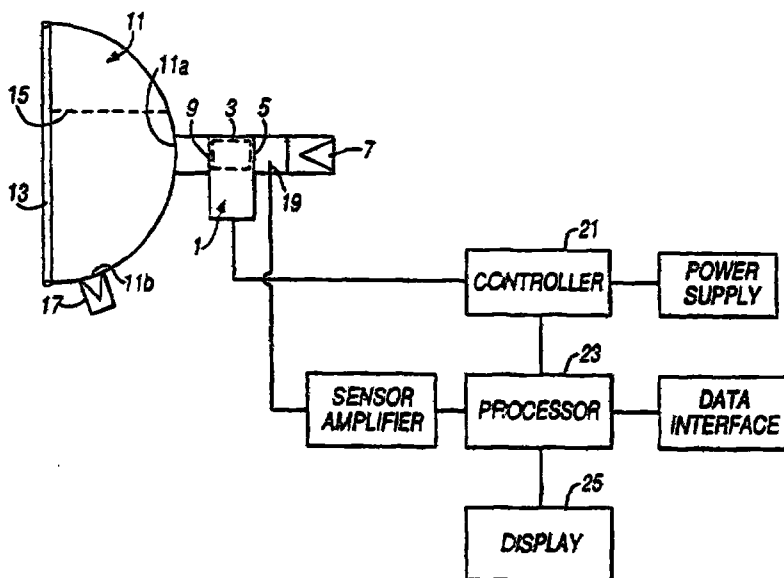


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(54) Title: INHALATION APPARATUS AND METHOD



(57) Abstract

An apparatus for and a method of ensuring the fit of a face mask to the face of a patient, the apparatus comprising: a face mask (11; 49; 89) having an inlet (11a; 49a; 89a) through which gas can be inhaled; and a sensor (19; 67; 99) for measuring the flow rate of gas drawn through the inlet (11a; 49a; 89a) of the face mask (11; 49; 89); wherein the fit of the face mask (11; 49; 89) is determined by monitoring the flow rate of gas drawn through the inlet (11a; 49a; 89a) of the face mask (11; 49; 89) upon inhalation by a patient, with the face mask (11; 49; 89) being considered satisfactorily to fit the patient when a substantially regular inhalation waveform is achieved.