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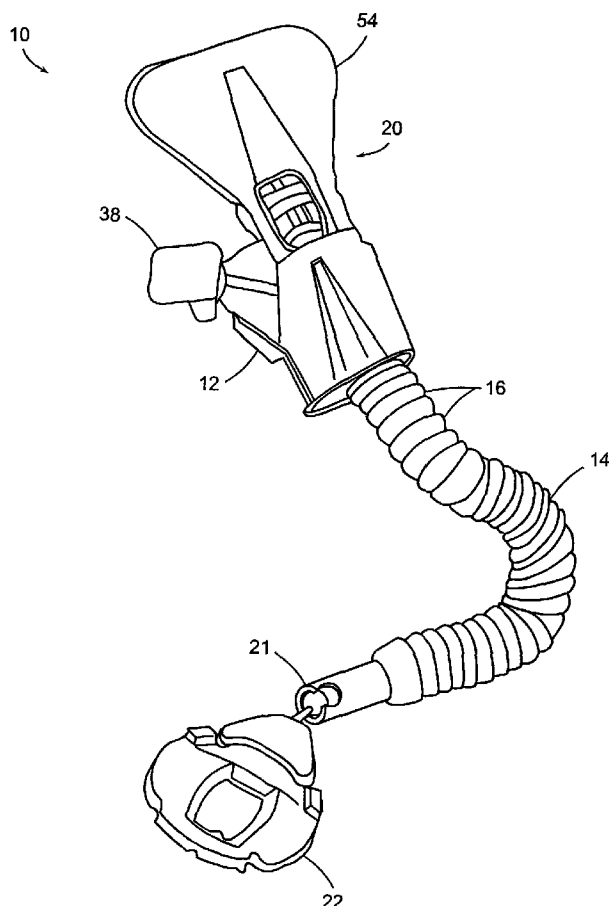
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(54) Title: SEGMENTED ARM FOR HOLDING A STABILIZING TISSUE DEVICE



(57) Abstract: A segmented arm support system and method for attachment to a surgical retractor includes an arm (14) having a plurality of segments (16) which can be joined together in frictional, locking engagement. In an unlocked state, the flexible arm (14) can be manually positioned and the stabilization device (22) placed over a localized area of tissue. Upon tightening of a cable (18) running through the segments (16), the segments (16) are brought together in frictional engagement. Each segment (16) has a convex outer wall (62) and a concave inner surface for attachment to adjacent segments. The segments (16) are constructed of a stainless steel substrate material and coated with a high friction plating material to permit frictional engagement of the segments, thereby allowing for adequate tightening and locking of the arm (14).



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