Preferably the connector comprises a projecting male part for receipt by a recessed female part of a respective connector and a recessed female part for receipt of a projecting male part of the respective connector.

Preferably the connector is capable of receiving and retaining a respective terminal end of the associated strap or associated additional strap segment.

Preferably the connector is configured to retain the respective terminal end by a friction fit engagement.

Preferably the connector comprises a series of internal teeth located upon a body of the connector for establishing a friction fit engagement with the respective terminal end, and a jaw of the body of the connector configured to close upon the teeth to securely retain the terminal end of the associated strap or associated additional strap segment upon the teeth.

Preferably the strap is of an elastic, textile material.

Preferably the additional strap segment is of an elastic, textile material.

Preferably the additional strap segment comprises one or more additional strap segments releasably connectable to one another in an end to end relationship to formed a single continuous additional strap segment for releasably connecting to the secondary end portions of the strap.

The additional strap segment may be of any combination of one or more of the following lengths: about 2cm, about 4cm, or about 6cm.

In a second aspect the invention may broadly be said to involve a headgear for a patient interface comprising

a strap forming a part of the headgear, the strap for assisting in retaining or stabilising of a patient interface upon a user,

wherein the strap, or a section of the strap, to be located upon or to be placed in contact with the face or a portion of a user's face includes a surface region for frictionally engaging with the user's face, the surface region being of a relatively higher frictional surface material than the remainder of the strap forming the or a part of the headgear to assist with retaining or stabilising the patient interface upon the face of the user.

CLAIMS

1. A headgear for a patient interface comprising

a strap forming a part of the headgear, the strap for assisting in retaining or stabilising of a patient interface upon a user,

wherein the strap, or a section of the strap, to be located upon or to be placed in contact with the face or a portion of a user's face includes a surface region for frictionally engaging with the user's face, the surface region being of a relatively higher frictional surface material than the remainder of the strap forming the or a part of the headgear to assist with retaining or stabilising the patient interface upon the face of the user.

2. The headgear as claimed in claim 1, wherein the strap or a respective section of the strap, includes two symmetric surface regions for frictionally engaging with two symmetric portions on either side of the user's face.

3. The headgear as claimed in claim 1 or 2, wherein a remainder of the strap is arranged to extend as a non-facial contacting strap or section of strap which is to extend beyond the user's face or the portion of the user's face.

4. The headgear as claimed in any one of claims 1 to 3, wherein each surface region comprises a material applied to the strap or the respective section of strap.

5. The headgear as claimed in claim 4, wherein the material applied is in the form of a sleeve positioned about the strap or the respective section of strap.

6. The headgear as claimed in claim 5, wherein the sleeve is configured to removeably couple about the strap or the section of the strap.

7. The headgear as claimed in claim 6, wherein the strap or the respective section of the strap extends through a passage in the sleeve.

8. The headgear as claimed in claim 7, wherein the strap or the respective section of the strap is adapted to be threaded through the passage.

9. The headgear as claimed in claim 7 or 8, wherein the strap remains free to be stretched or elasticised or extended when in a sleeved configuration.

10. The headgear as claimed in claim 4, wherein the material applied is: in the form of a material coated upon the strap or the respective section of strap; and/or over-

moulded upon the strap or the respective section of strap; and/or smooth and comfortable for skin contact; and/or a Thermoplastic Elastomer.

11. The headgear as claimed in any one of claims 1 to 10, wherein each surface region is a surface of wider surface area at an end to be located more adjacent to the patient interface than the surface area of an opposing end more distant from the patient interface.

12. The headgear as claimed in claim 11, wherein each surface region tapers from the relatively wider surface area to the relatively lesser surface area.

13. The headgear as claimed in any one of claims 1 to 12, wherein the strap or each section of the strap including the surface region further comprises a component of the strap configured to releasably couple the patient interface.

14. The headgear as claimed in any one of claims 1 to 13, wherein a width of the relatively wider surface region at an end to be located more adjacent to the patient interface is similar to a width of a portion of the patient interface to which the strap couples.

15. The headgear as claimed in any one of claims 1 to 14, further comprising a connector, wherein the sleeve is configured to receivably retain the connector therein.

16. The headgear as claimed in claim 15, wherein the sleeve is configured to removably couple about the connector.

17. The headgear as claimed in claim 15 or 16, wherein the connector comprises a first male connection part, and the sleeve comprises a corresponding second female connection part to couple the sleeve and connector.

18. The headgear as claimed in any one of claims 15 to 17, wherein the connector is adapted to extend through a passage in the sleeve.

19. The headgear as claimed in claim 18, wherein the connector is substantially housed by the sleeve in a region adapted to locate adjacent the user's cheek in use.

20. The headgear as claimed in any one of claims 1 to 19, wherein the or each portion of the user's face upon which the strap or the section of the strap is to be located includes a cheek of the user.