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(54) Title: RESISTIVE REUSABLE ELECTROSURGICAL RETURN ELECTRODE

(57) Abstract

This invention is a reusable electrosurgical return electrode pad (41) for use with electrosurgery. In one embodiment it includes a presentation or working surface area lying in a range of from about 100 square centimeters to about 20,000. In another, the working surface is at least as large as that of a projection of about half of the profile of the trunk of a patient. In yet another, it includes a working surface area at least as large as that of a projection of the profile of both the trunk and legs of a patient. It is adapted for disposition on the working surface of an operating table or dentist's chair immediately underlying a patient during electrosurgery. By presenting a very large working surface area, the need for direct contact or contact through conducting gels is eliminated; through employment of washable surface areas, it is made readily cleanable and reusable; and through the selection of resistance characteristics for the electrode materials of the principal body of the electrode. Through tailoring of electrode geometries, it is made self-limiting as to current density, and temperature rise so as to prevent patient trauma. An optional sleeve (50) is provided for cooperative use with the electrode.

