

MANDIBLE ADJUSTMENT DEVICE

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

1. Field of the Invention

[0001] The present invention relates to a mandible adjustment device, particularly a device capable of positioning a human being's mandible forward to keep a smooth breathing passage for neither respiratory arrest nor snore in sleep and relying on a mucosa protection device for no oral mucosal trauma.

2. Description of Related Art

[0002] The phenomena such as snore and respiratory arrest blamed to muscular relaxation mostly are bothering many people in sleep. For that matter, muscles of the supporting soft palate 102 and the tongue base 7 inside the oral cavity 101 of the mouth 10, as shown in Figure 1, further droop under the action of gravity, squeezing the breathing passage 8 and causing a blocked airway that results in snore and even momentary cessation of breathing and asthma which are serious symptoms of sleep apnea that worsens sleep effect and induces high blood pressure, heart disease, etc.

[0003] For relieves of above symptoms, there have been so-called anti-snoring devices or snore stoppers commercially available. Most existing anti-snoring devices rely on upper and lower braces to combine a connecting mechanism with which a mandible is shifted forward to prevent the jaw from drooping and blocking the breathing passage 8.

[0004] However, each existing product mentioned hereinbefore is characteristic of a fixing mechanism with which upper and lower braces are immobilized and the mandible is forced to move forward and be fixed but fails to move back. A user who has installed an anti-snoring device for a long time might suffer from muscular soreness at the condyle of mandible and be intolerant to an anti-snoring device that bothers a user coming down with respiratory arrest.

[0005] In addition, most existing anti-snoring devices are off-the-shelf products with given specifications not exactly fitting with the shape of a user's dentition. As such, there will be any gap between a brace and teeth and even a position offset that leads to separation of a brace from teeth and makes no contribution to the effect of avoiding snore or respiratory arrest.

[0006] Furthermore, an existing anti-snoring device, which is manufactured as braces, is installed around two rows of dentitions of upper and lower jaws. However, a user who is moving

the mandible forward and occluding teeth feels exists of foreign objects at the front teeth area significantly due to specific thicknesses of upper and lower braces and has a sleepless night during which an anti-snoring device has been installed inside a user's mouth.

[0007] Currently, there is another type of anti-snoring device featuring a connecting mechanism installed at the front teeth area and used in forcing the mandible to move forward with upper and lower front teeth pulled toward each other. However, a user who installs this anti-snoring device for a long time will suffer more pains because the front teeth area sustaining excessive strength is pulled intensively. Accordingly, this type of anti-snoring device is not categorized as a device for continuous service.

[0008] To solve the above problem, the patent applicant installed a mucosa protection device at an upper teeth brace and a positioning part at a lower teeth brace wherein each of the upper positioning part and the lower positioning part extends a hook part and a prop. When the hook parts of the upper and lower positioning parts are engaged with each other, the mandible stays at a forward position to keep a smooth breathing passage 8 for neither respiratory arrest nor snore. Moreover, the upper and lower positioning parts, both of which do not closely fit but are moveably engaged with each other, form a flexible space for unlimited movement without a user's discomfort at a joint (condyle) of the mandible due to components fastened closely. In summary, a mandible adjustment device in the present disclosure should be considered as a preferred solution.

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

[0009] The present disclosure relates to a mandible adjustment device comprising: an upper teeth brace, which has an upper teeth accommodation space developed according to a dental pattern and matching a human being's maxillary dental arch and extends a mucosa protection device located at a side wall, being opposite to an upper molar area and having an arc-shaped outer wall surface as well as a through hole thereon; a lower teeth brace, which has a lower teeth accommodation space developed according to a dental pattern and matching a human being's mandible dental arch on a mandible and extends a positioning part located at a side wall, being opposite to a lower molar area and having a prop that stretches toward the mucosa protection device and extends a folding section from a front end to a human being's condyle for development of an angle of bending between the prop and the folding section; wherein: the through hole on the mucosa protection device is greater than the positioning part in diameter and penetrated by the folding section and the prop with the upper teeth brace and the lower teeth

brace installed on a user such that (a) the prop stopped by a wall surface of the through hole cannot move backward,(b) the lower teeth brace cannot move downward and a human being's mandible is fixed at a default position correspondingly because the folding section is stopped by a top surface of the mucosa protection device, and (c) the prop which is less than the through hole in size is shifted within the through hole such that the mandible moves unlimitedly for no discomfort at the condyle of a user wearing a mandible adjustment device for a long time.

[0010] In a preferred embodiment, each of the upper molar area and the lower molar area comprises a first premolar, a second premolar, a first molar and a second molar and each of the mucosa protection device and the positioning part is opposite to each of the first molar and the second molar or one side between the two molars.

[0011] In a preferred embodiment, the mucosa protection device and the positioning part is opposite to a peripheral side of the first molar preferably.

[0012] In a preferred embodiment, the upper teeth brace (the lower teeth brace) has an opening, which is drilled on the anterior teeth area of the maxillary dental arch (the anterior teeth area of the mandible dental arch), to expose a teeth surface of the anterior teeth area.

[0013] In a preferred embodiment, the upper teeth brace (the lower teeth brace) has an occlusion surface that is opposite to the anterior teeth area of the maxillary dental arch (the anterior teeth area of the mandible dental arch) and characteristic of a thickness of less than 1mm.

[0014] In a preferred embodiment, the prop and the folding section on the positioning part form an angle ranging from 30 to 110 degrees or about 90 degrees preferably.

[0015] In a preferred embodiment, the prop on the positioning part is characteristic of an adjuster mounted thereon and featuring a thickness with which a position of the mandible during forward positioning is fine-tuned.

[0016] In a preferred embodiment, the mucosa protection device comprises a positioning slot, which is opened on a top wall surface near the condyle and characteristic of one end linking the inner wall surface of the through hole as well as the other end with a fastening slot thereon, and the positioning part is equipped with a fastening block at one end of the folding section wherein the positioning slot is combined with the folding section for positioning and the fastening block is fastened inside the fastening slot for stability of the upper teeth brace and lower teeth brace, both of which are engaged with each other.

[0017] In a preferred embodiment, the mucosa protection device is characteristic of a top wall

surface near the condyle is greater than the folding section in size and the folding section is not exposed to the arc-shaped outer wall surface of the mucosa protection device for no contact between one end of the folding section and oral mucosa.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

[0018] Figure 1 is a schematic view illustrating squeezed muscles of a human being's breathing passage;

[0019] Figure 2 is a schematic view illustrating dentitions and a mandible at a human being's cranium;

[0020] Figure 3A is a schematic view illustrating a three-dimensional structure of an upper teeth brace in a mandible adjustment device;

[0021] Figure 3B is a schematic top view of an upper teeth brace in a mandible adjustment device;

[0022] Figure 4A is a schematic view illustrating a three-dimensional structure of a lower teeth brace in a mandible adjustment device;

[0023] Figure 4B is a schematic top view of a lower teeth brace in a mandible adjustment device;

[0024] Figure 5A is a schematic view illustrating displacement of a jawbone after a mandible adjustment device is installed;

[0025] Figure 5B is another schematic view illustrating displacement of a jawbone after a mandible adjustment device is installed;

[0026] Figure 6A is a schematic view illustrating both an upper teeth brace and a lower teeth brace of a mandible adjustment device are engaged with each other;

[0027] Figure 6B is a schematic view illustrating both an upper teeth brace and a lower teeth brace of a mandible adjustment device match oral mucosa;

[0028] Figure 7 is a schematic view illustrating status of a breathing passage after a mandible adjustment device is installed;

[0029] Figure 8A is a schematic view illustrating openings on an upper teeth brace of a mandible adjustment device;

[0030] Figure 8B is a schematic view illustrating openings on a lower teeth brace of a mandible adjustment device;

[0031] Figure 9 is a schematic view illustrating an adjuster is mounted on a mandible adjustment device;

[0032] Figures 10A-10C are schematic views illustrating an adjuster is mounted on a mandible adjustment device;

[0033] Figure 11 is a schematic view illustrating a mucosa protection device of a mandible adjustment device in another embodiment.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE INVENTION

[0034] The technical contents, features and effects of a mandible adjustment device are clearly explained in preferred embodiments and accompanying drawings as follows.

[0035] As shown in Figure 2, a human being's oral cavity has a maxillary dental arch as well as a mandible dental arch and dentitions of the maxillary dental arch as well as a mandible dental arch are explained as follows:

1. The dentition of the maxillary dental arch consists of following teeth:
 - (a)An anterior teeth area 31 comprising an upper front tooth 311, an upper side front tooth 312 and an upper canine tooth 313;
 - (b)An upper molar area 32 comprising a first premolar 321, a second premolar 322, a first molar 323 and a second molar 324 (as well as a third molar).
2. The dentition of the mandible dental arch consists of following teeth:
 - (a)An anterior teeth area 41 comprising a lower front tooth 411, a lower side front tooth 412 and a lower canine tooth 413;
 - (b)An lower molar area 42 comprising a first premolar 421, a second premolar 422,a first molar 423 and a second molar 424 (as well as a third molar).

[0036] As shown in Figures 3A, 3B, 4A and 4B, the mandible adjustment device in the present disclosure comprises an upper teeth brace 1 and a lower teeth brace 2. Because the upper teeth brace 1 with an upper teeth accommodation space 11 inside and the lower teeth brace 2 with a lower teeth accommodation space 21 inside are manufactured through a 3D scanning technique for a user's dental pattern, the maxillary dental arch and the mandible dental arch of a human being closely match the upper teeth accommodation space 11 and the lower teeth accommodation space 21, respectively.

[0037] The upper teeth brace 1 is provided with a mucosa protection device 12 located at a side wall and opposite to the upper molar area 32; the mucosa protection device 12 which is characteristic of an arc-shaped outer wall surface 121 comprises a through hole 122 opened inside.

[0038] The lower teeth brace 2 is provided with a positioning part 22 located at a side wall and opposite to the lower molar area 32; the positioning part 22 forms a prop 221 extending toward the upper molar area 32 and forward extruding a folding section 222 toward a condyle 51 of the mandible 5 crookedly. The prop 221 and the folding section 222 form an angle ranging from 30 to 110 degrees, for example, 30 degrees, 40 degrees, 50 degrees, 60 degrees, 70 degrees, 80 degrees, 90 degrees, 100 degrees and 110 degrees or about 90 degrees preferably; moreover, the positioning part 22 is less than the through hole 122 in diameter such that the through hole 122 is penetrated by each of the prop 221 and the folding section 222 on the positioning part 22.

[0039] As shown in Figure 5A, a user who is wearing both the upper teeth brace 1 and the lower teeth brace 2 (the condyle 51 of the mandible 5 at an original position A1) should control his (her) mouth muscles to move the mandible 5 downward and then forward and consequentially drive the lower teeth brace 2 forward (from an original position A1 to a first forward position A2).

[0040] As shown in Figure 5B for a user closing his (her) mouth, the through hole 122 on the mucosa protection device 12 is penetrated by the prop 221 as well as the folding section 222 and the folding section 222 is positioned at the upper teeth brace 1. Based on movement of muscles, the mandible 5 automatically moves backward through the mandibular retrusion during which the prop 221 stopped by the inner wall surface of the through hole 122 near the condyle 51 is unable to move backward to reach the original position A1 and the folding section 222 shifted to the condyle 51 and stopped by a top wall surface 123 of the mucosa protection device 12 keeps the mandible 5 unmovable in the downward direction and the mouth closed (the condyle 51 is shifted to and positioned at the second forward position A3 as shown in Figure 6A). In the embodiment, each of the mucosa protection device 12 and the positioning part 22 is opposite to a peripheral side of the first molar. The inner wall surface of the through hole 122 near the condyle 51 is a default position reached by the mandible 5 for forward positioning and designated as a customized forward position physiologically accepted by a specific user. Moreover, the prop 221 which is far less than the through hole 122 in dimension is shifted unlimitedly inside the through hole 122 such that the mandible 5 of a user moves subconsciously without restraint in sleep. Because the top wall surface 123 of the mucosa protection device 12 is greater than the folding

section 222 in size, the folding section 222 is not exposed to the arc-shaped outer wall surface 121 of the mucosa protection device 12 for no contact between the top of the folding section 222 and oral mucosa 1011(as shown in Figure 6B).

[0041] Furthermore, the folding section 222 is stopped by the top wall surface 123 of the mucosa protection device 12 such that the mandible 5 cannot move down and a user's mouth is closed in sleep. Accordingly, the tongue base 7 and the supporting soft palate 102, both of which are shifted upward, keeps the breathing passage 8 unblocked in sleep for neither respiratory arrest nor snore when a sleeper's mouth is not opened by the mandible 5 that is forward positioned and not shifted downward.

[0042] Additionally, as shown in Figure 6B, the arc-shaped outer wall surface 121 with a proper angle of bending closely fits the oral mucosa 1011 and scratches no mucosa when the mandible 5 is shifted slightly; moreover, a user who wears a mandible adjustment device for a long time feels comfortable with the oral mucosa 1011 on which pressures are dispersed by the arc-shaped outer wall surface 121 evenly rather than on a single point.

[0043] As shown in Figures 8A and 8B, the teeth surfaces of the anterior teeth areas 31,41 are exposed due to the upper teeth brace 1 and the lower teeth brace 2, which have an opening 13 and an opening 23 opposite to the anterior teeth area 31 of the maxillary dental arch 3 and the anterior teeth area 41 of the mandible dental arch 4 in a human body, respectively. When a user's mandible 5 is shifted forward, the teeth surfaces of the anterior teeth areas 31,41 contact with each other and a user feels comfortable with the condyle 51 of the mandible 5 which is not kept at a downward position due to larger thicknesses of the upper teeth brace 1 and/or the lower teeth brace 2.

[0044] Furthermore, for no discomfort of a user occluding teeth due to thicknesses of the upper teeth brace 1 and/or the lower teeth brace 2, the thickness in each of occlusion surfaces of the upper teeth brace 1 and the lower teeth brace 2, which are opposite to the anterior teeth areas of the maxillary dental arch and the mandible dental arch, respectively, is designed as less than 1mm. Accordingly, teeth occlusion of the anterior teeth areas is analogous to the past occlusion habit of a user on whom no mandible adjustment device was installed for a user's minimum discomfort.

[0045] Referring to Figures 7, 9 and 10A-10C in which an adjuster 6 (Figure 9) is installed on the prop 221 as required due to the mandible 5 at a forward position that causes a breathing passage blocked in sleep. In virtue of a thickness of the adjuster 6, the mandible 5 is forward

positioned controllably. Moreover, the prop 221 on which the adjuster 6 has been installed is characteristic of the overall size still less than the through hole 122 and shifted inside the through hole unlimitedly.

[0046] As shown in Figures 10A-10C, the adjusters 6, 6' and 6'', which are elastic components with holes 61, 61' and 61'', respectively; the adjusters 6, 6' and 6'', which are mounted on the prop 221 through the holes 61, 61' and 61'', respectively, are characteristic of distinct thicknesses for a user's choice as required and fine-tuning of the mandible 5 forward positioned flexibly. For the mandible 5 at a forward position accepted by a user, the breathing passage 8 is kept unblocked for neither respiratory arrest nor snore.

[0047] Furthermore, referring to Figure 11 in which a positioning slot 124 different from the previous embodiments is designed on the top wall surface 123 of the mucosa protection device 12 near the condyle 51 and has one end linking the inner wall surface of the through hole 122 as well as the other end with a fastening slot 125 opened thereon; moreover, a fastening block 223 is mounted at one end of the folding section 222 on the positioning part 22. The positioning slot 124 is combined with the folding section 222 for positioning and the fastening block 223 is fastened inside the fastening slot 125 for stability of the upper teeth brace 1 and lower teeth brace 2, both of which are engaged with each other. In the embodiment, other structural features identical to those of previous embodiments are not explained repeatedly.

[0048] The advantages of a mandible adjustment device in the present disclosure in contrast to the prior art are shown as follows:

(1) A user might feel strong discomfort at the condyle 51 of the mandible 5 which is fixed for a long time compared with a mandible 5 moving normally in sleep. In the present disclosure, the positioning part 22 which is less than the through hole 12 on the mucosa protection device 12 in size is shifted inside the through hole 122 unlimitedly. Accordingly, a user who has worn a mandible adjustment device for a long time in sleep feels no discomfort at the condyle 51 because the mandible 5 moves without restraint.

(2) The breathing passage 8 of a sleeper is kept unblocked for neither respiratory arrest nor snore due to the tongue base 7 and the supporting soft palate 102, both of which are pulled upward when the mandible 5 is shifted and positioned forward.

In the present disclosure, a user feels no discomfort at the oral mucosa 1011 when pressure applied on the oral mucosa 1011 by the mucosa protection device 12 with an arc-shaped outer wall surface 121 thereon is dispersed evenly rather than at a single point.

[0049] A mandible adjustment device has been disclosed in preferred embodiments which are not taken as examples to restrict the scope of the present application. Any change and/or modification made by the skilled persons who have general knowledge in the art and familiarize themselves with the above technical features and embodiments without departing from the spirit and scope of the present disclosure should be covered in claims of the patent specification.

CLAIM

1. A mandible adjustment device, comprising:

an upper teeth brace, which has an upper teeth accommodation space developed according to a dental pattern and matching a human being's maxillary dental arch and extends a mucosa protection device located at a side wall of the upper teeth brace, being opposite to an upper molar area and having an arc-shaped outer wall surface as well as a through hole thereon; and

a lower teeth brace, which has a lower teeth accommodation space developed according to a dental pattern and matching a human being's mandible dental arch on a mandible and extends a positioning part located at a side wall of the lower teeth brace), being opposite to a lower molar area and having a prop that stretches toward the mucosa protection device and extends a folding section from a front end to a human being's condyle for development of an angle of bending between the prop and the folding section;

wherein: the through hole on the mucosa protection device is greater than the positioning part in diameter and penetrated by the folding section and the prop with the upper teeth brace and the lower teeth brace installed on a user such that: the prop stopped by a wall surface of the through hole cannot move backward; the lower teeth brace cannot move downward and a human being's mandible is fixed at a default position correspondingly because the folding section is stopped by a top surface of the mucosa protection device; and the prop which is smaller than the through hole in size is shifted within the through hole such that the mandible moves unlimitedly for no discomfort at the condyle of a user wearing a mandible adjustment device for a long time.

2. The mandible adjustment device as claimed in claim 1 wherein the upper molar area comprises a first premolar, a second premolar of the upper molar area, a first molar of the upper molar area and a second molar of the upper molar area and the lower molar area comprises a first premolar of the lower molar area, a second premolar of the lower molar area, a first molar of the lower molar area and a second molar of the lower molar area; and wherein the mucosa protection device is opposite to each of the first molar of the upper molar area and the second molar of the upper molar area or one side between the two molars and the positioning part is opposite to each of the first molar of the lower molar area and the second molar of the lower molar area or one side between the two molars.
3. The mandible adjustment device as claimed in claim 2 wherein the mucosa protection device and the positioning part are opposite to a peripheral side of the first molar.
4. The mandible adjustment device as claimed in claim 1 wherein the upper teeth brace or/and the lower teeth brace has an opening, which is drilled on an anterior teeth area of

the maxillary dental arch or/and an anterior teeth area of the mandible dental arch, to expose a teeth surface of the anterior teeth area.

5. The mandible adjustment device as claimed in claim 1 wherein the upper teeth brace and the lower teeth brace have an occlusion surface that is correspondingly opposite to the anterior teeth area of the maxillary dental arch and the anterior teeth area of the mandible dental arch and characteristic of a thickness of less than 1mm.
6. The mandible adjustment device as claimed in claim 1 wherein the prop and the folding section on the positioning part form an angle ranging from 30 to 110 degrees.
7. The mandible adjustment device as claimed in claim 1, further comprising adjusters wherein each of the adjusters is mounted on the prop of the positioning part and characteristic of a thickness with which a position of the mandible during forward positioning is fine-tuned.
8. The mandible adjustment device as claimed in claim 1 wherein the mucosa protection device comprises a positioning slot, which is opened on a top wall surface near the condyle and characteristic of one end linking the inner wall surface of the through hole as well as the other end with a fastening slot thereon, and the positioning part is equipped with a fastening block at one end of the folding section such that the positioning slot is combined with the folding section for positioning and the fastening block is fastened inside the fastening slot for stability of the upper teeth brace and lower teeth brace, both of which are engaged with each other.
9. The mandible adjustment device as claimed in claim 1 wherein the mucosa protection device is characteristic of a top wall surface near the condyle is greater than the folding section in size and the folding section is not exposed to the arc-shaped outer wall surface of the mucosa protection device for no contact between one end of the folding section and oral mucosa.