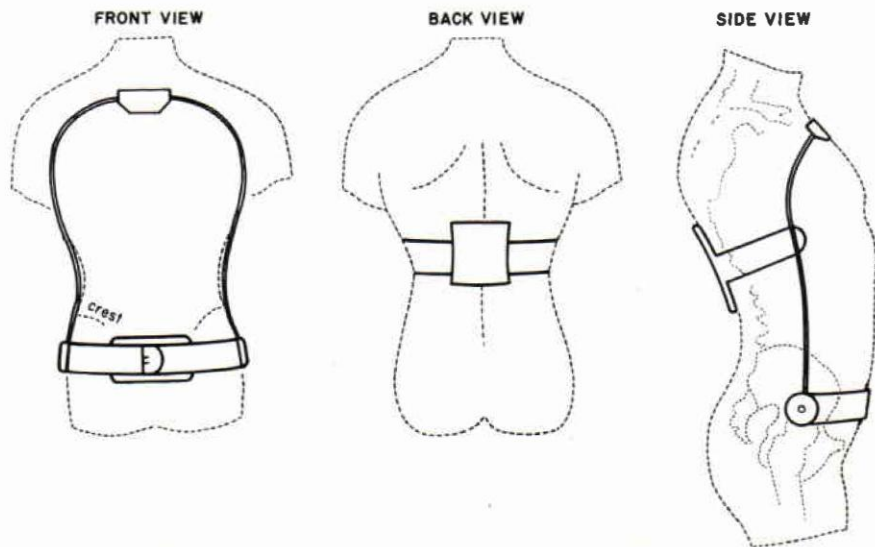


R.K.G. HYPEREXTENSION SPINE BRACE

By J. H. BENNETT

Waco Orthopedic Brace and Limb Company, Waco, Texas.



The accompanying illustration shows an interesting, simple but quite effective hyperextension brace. This brace was designed and made by the author and by Lester Stovall, shop foreman of the Waco Orthopedic Brace & Limb Co. Use of this appliance is under the medical supervision of Dr. R. K. Gassler, orthopedic surgeon of Waco, Texas, who has used the appliance on several of his patients.

It consists of 5/16" cold rolled steel rod, which is covered with plastic tubing. It has two lateral uprights, extending up each side of the trunk, conforming to the torso and one anterior cross bar across the upper chest, just below the sternal notch, which has a rolled felt pad to eliminate the pressure. Pressure is exerted through pads over the symphysis and the sternum, and counter pressure through a wide webbing strap and leather plate across the mid back, set at whatever position may be required. The nice feature of this appliance is that it can be constructed very quickly, and at a very moderate cost to the patient. The two uprights are padded at the distal end where they come in contact with the crest of the illium.

Editor's Note: We are indebted to R. K. Gassler, M.D., of 1710 Colcord Ave., Waco Texas, for the following note about the use of this Hyperextension Spine Brace.

This brace is not an original device, but is the outgrowth of using several other recognized hyperextension braces. The pad in the lumbar region can be adjusted, lengthened, or shortened, and may be reinforced with metal as one desires. The restriction or the amount of hyperextension is regulated by

the strap at the pelvis. The lateral bars are brought to the mid axillary line and thus restricts lateral motion.

This device is not to be used on a person one cannot trust, nor on one who requires more rigid fixation. It is a brace which is quite easily worn and will give as adequate support as the old Taylor type brace would give to the elderly patient who has dorsal lumbar or dorsal pain. It may also be used following more rigid supports such as a body jacket in the treatment of fractures of the upper lumbar or lower dorsal regions.

For a person with a considerable amount of abdominal weakness or abdominal protrusion, a fuller front may be attached to the support.

1959 ACADEMY MEETING

The Certification Board is to be one of the Scientific Exhibitors at the 1959 meeting of the American Academy of Orthopaedic Surgeons. This meeting will be held at the Palmer House in Chicago, Illinois, January 24-29, 1959. The Certification Exhibit will describe new training materials for the certified orthotist and prosthetist and call attention to the necessity for dealing with a certified facility to obtain the best in service. Les Smith of the Washington Office is arranging the exhibit. John DeBender and Alfred Denison of Chicago, Fred Eschen of New York, and George Lambert, of Baton Rouge, Louisiana, will supervise the manning of the booth so that inquiries of surgeons about certified facilities may be answered.

Other exhibits of special interest to OALMA members include: "SACH Foot for Lower Extremity Prosthesis," presented by Dr. Everett J. Gordon of Washington, D. C.

"New Plastic Artificial Legs," presented by Captain Thomas J. Canty and associates of Oakland, California.

"Industrial Amputee Rehabilitation," presented by Dr. Charles O.

Bechtol.

"Simple Night Splint for Tibial Rotation," presented by Dr. Rex J. Howard of Fort Worth.

"Orthotic Devices for Upper Extremity Bracing," presented by Dr. Kenneth S. Landauer, and Dr. Kenneth W. Lane.

"Aspects of Cerebral Palsy" by Dr. Winthrop Phelps.

A fifty-dollar registration fee will be charged for non-members of the Academy. Many research papers will be presented in various scientific programs.

A comprehensive series of instructional courses will again be offered. The distinguished faculty for these courses include these surgeons who have appeared on OALMA programs: Dr. Charles O. Bechtol, Dr. Walter P. Blount, Dr. Charles H. Frantz, Dr. Claude N. Lambert, Dr. Charles L. Lowman, Dr. J. Vernon Luck, Dr. Paul E. McMaster, Dr. Vernon L. Nickel, Dr. Winthrop M. Phelps, Dr. Daniel C. Riordan, Dr. Albert C. Schmidt (Remember the Schmidt-Bidwell presentation on the Milwaukee Brace?). Dr. Edwin R. Schottstaedt, Dr. Jack K. Wickstrom.