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# United States Patent [19]

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Gilliland et al.

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[54] **FACIAL SUPPORT MASK  
ACCOMMODATING PRONE POSITION  
SURGERY**

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[57] **ABSTRACT**

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During a surgical procedure being performed on a patient in the prone (face down) position, the patient's head and face are supported by a facial support mask having two or more contoured cushions that are independently inflatable and deflatable with respect to each other. The inflatable cushions are sequentially pressurized and depressurized, thus providing continuous, soft support for the patient's head, while alternatively relieving compression forces applied to pressure-sensitive facial areas. Alternately pressurizing and depressurizing the inflatable cushions shifts the location of compressive forces, thus relieving compressed tissues and permitting recovery of normal blood circulation in sensitive facial tissues. The patient's head, neck and face are not disturbed while the support cushions are cycled through various pressurization and depressurization states.

[51] Int. Cl.<sup>6</sup> ..... **A47C 20/02**; A47C 27/08

[52] U.S. Cl. .... **5/638**; 5/644; 5/713

[58] Field of Search ..... 5/622, 636, 637, 5/638, 644, 652.2, 655.3, 713; 128/205.25, 206.26

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**13 Claims, 5 Drawing Sheets**

