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(57) Abstract :

Thumb sucking is a common habit in children when prolonged causes dentofacial deformities. Palatal crib is the most common appliance used to break this habit and it could affect the child's food intake, speech and causes discomfort. The present invention ThumbSens-Vib is a safe and effective appliance that overcomes these disadvantages and helps the child to stop the habit of thumb/finger sucking while performing normal daily activities. ThumbSens-Vib is a modified mitten covering the thumb, palm and dorsum till the wrist. A thermal sensor placed in the region of the thumb pad detects temperature change when placed in the mouth. This is relayed to a small vibrating unit in the dorsal surface of mitten through a circuit and microprocessor and the vibrating unit vibrates on receiving impulse. The vibrations act as reminder for the child to remove the thumb from the mouth. The beeper present in the circuit produces a beeping sound when the child tries to remove the appliance, thus acting as a reminder for the child and the parent. The appliance avoids interference with the routine activities and helps the child to overcome the thumb sucking habit in a non-punitive manner. The parent also plays a very important role by helping the child regularly wear the appliance and monitor the wear of the appliance and thus form the triad including the dentist, child and parent.

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