the lungs during the tonic phase and in the clonic phase it is unlikely that more will be inspired than will exchange with the dead space. Whether the tongue is obstructing the airway or not is, therefore, irrelevant.

If bitten, the tongue is painful for a few days, but this is only a temporary problem because the tongue is extremely vascular and prone to excellent healing.

When the seizure is over and the patient is recovering in the flaccid phase, he may be turned on his side; with fingers placed behind the angle of the jaw it may be possible to push the jaw forward and upward, thereby pulling the tongue forward and relieving any airway obstruction the tongue may have produced by falling back. To attempt to separate the jaws is to court disaster from a broken tooth that will very possibly be inhaled, with the almost inevitable sequela of a lung abscess.

I therefore suggest that to attempt to push a wooden tongue depressor between the teeth is futile and to insert a metal jaw-separator is dangerous and unnecessary in a patient having a grand mal seizure.

The seizure is best managed by moving the patient from any dangerous situation in which he may have his attack, turning him on his side after the tonic and clonic phases are over, and pulling the jaw forward and upward until such time as spontaneous respiration and gag and cough reflexes are re-established. Nothing should be placed in the mouth.

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Medic-Alert bracelets

To the editor: Medic-Alert has over 100 000 bracelet wearers in Canada. Dr. Rabinovitch's patient (*Can Med Assoc J* 111: 1191, 1974) is the only one who has presented with this complaint. The victim, however, may be the 1 in 20 000 who is allergic to stainless steel. These are exceptions. For all other Medic-Alert members we insist that they never remove their bracelets. Indeed, most hospitals have agreed not to do this even during an operation. The sister hook is designed to make it almost impossible for the wearer to remove his own bracelet. We also advise that enough links be cut from the chain so that it fits snugly. Such an adjustment could help Dr. Rabinovitch's patient and eliminate any need for removal.

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