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**Banner et al.**

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(54) **ENDOTRACHEAL TUBE PRESSURE MONITORING SYSTEM AND METHOD OF CONTROLLING SAME**

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See application file for complete search history.

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(57) **ABSTRACT**

An endotracheal tube pressure monitoring system for an endotracheal tube having at least pressure sensor in communication with a major lumen of the endotracheal tube, and a pressure monitoring subsystem in operative communication with the pressure sensor. The system may also have at least one fluid pressure line in fluid communication with the major lumen and in operative communication with the pressure monitoring subsystem to monitor the pressure of fluid within each respective fluid pressure line, and a purging subsystem in fluid communication with the fluid pressure line. Each fluid pressure line that is in fluid communication with the purging subsystem being selectively purged by the purging subsystem when pressure monitoring subsystem determines the respective pressure line has become obstructed. Purging the fluid pressure line maintains the patency of the pressure line so that accurate pressure measurements within the endotracheal tube can be obtained for calculation of parameters in lung mechanics. It is emphasized that this abstract is provided to comply with the rules requiring an abstract which will allow a searcher or other reader to quickly ascertain the subject matter of the technical disclosure. It is submitted with the understanding that it will not be used to interpret or limit the scope or meaning of the claims. 37 C.F.R. §1.72(b).

**40 Claims, 10 Drawing Sheets**

