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**References Cited [Referenced By]**

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**U.S. Patent Documents**

<a href="#">7344267</a>	March 2008	Carito
<a href="#">7478779</a>	January 2009	Nguyen et al.
<a href="#">7850328</a>	December 2010	Carito
<a href="#">7922116</a>	April 2011	Nguyen et al.

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**Claims**

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What is claimed is:

1. An apparatus for sealing and illuminating a balloon, comprising: a body element insertable into an opening of a balloon, the body element enabling inflation of the balloon through an intake tube thereof; a light module for illuminating an interior of the balloon; and a sealing element having a first end couplable to the body element and a second end extending freely from the body element, the second end of the sealing element sealable below the intake tube to prevent deflation of the balloon by tying the second end thereof.
2. The apparatus of claim 1, further comprising another sealing element couplable to the body element over the balloon.
3. The apparatus of claim 1, wherein a portion of the sealing element and a portion of the balloon extend over each other in a sealing portion of the body element.
4. The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the sealing element comprises a first sealing element, and further comprising a second sealing element, the first sealing element disposed between the body element and the second sealing element.
5. The apparatus of claim 4, wherein a portion of the balloon is disposed between the body element and the second sealing element.
6. The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the light module comprises a light element and a power supply, and wherein a sealing portion of the body element comprises an opening for passing an airflow received from the intake tube to an interior of the balloon, the sealing portion for sealingly engaging a portion of the balloon, and wherein a support distally locates the power supply from the sealing portion.
7. The apparatus of claim 6, wherein the sealing portion is located between the intake tube and the support.
8. The apparatus of claim 6, further comprising an activation switch for activating the light element, the activation switch located adjacent the light element and disposed within the interior of the balloon.
9. The apparatus of claim 8, wherein the power supply is located between the activation switch and the support.
10. An apparatus for sealing and illuminating a balloon, comprising: a body element comprising: a sealing portion for sealingly engaging a portion of a balloon; an intake tube at a first end thereof for receiving a gasflow to inflate the balloon; and a light element at a second, opposite end thereof for illuminating an interior area of the balloon; and a sealing element having a first end couplable to the sealing portion and a second end extending beyond an airflow intake end of the intake tube, the second end of the sealing element sealable below the intake tube to prevent deflation of the balloon, wherein the sealing element comprises a flexible tube closable over the airflow intake end of the intake tube.







openings 40 to inflate balloon 12. Once balloon 12 is inflated, sealing element 22 may be tied, closed and/or otherwise sealed. Light module 24 may be activated to illuminate balloon 12.

The terminology used herein is for the purpose of describing particular embodiments only and is not intended to be limiting of the disclosure. As used herein, the singular forms "a", "an" and "the" are intended to include the plural forms as well, unless the context clearly indicates otherwise. It will be further understood that the terms "comprises" and/or "comprising," when used in this specification, specify the presence of stated features, integers, steps, operations, elements, and/or components, but do not preclude the presence or addition of one or more other features, integers, steps, operations, elements, components, and/or groups thereof.

The corresponding structures, materials, acts, and equivalents of all means or step plus function elements in the claims below are intended to include any structure, material, or act for performing the function in combination with other claimed elements as specifically claimed. The description of the present disclosure has been presented for purposes of illustration and description, but is not intended to be exhaustive or limited to the disclosure in the form disclosed. Many modifications and variations will be apparent to those of ordinary skill in the art without departing from the scope and spirit of the disclosure. The embodiment was chosen and described in order to best explain the principles of the disclosure and the practical application, and to enable others of ordinary skill in the art to understand the disclosure for various embodiments with various modifications as are suited to the particular use contemplated.

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