



**FIG 29-11** A, Halo vest. B, Cervical traction with Gardner-Wells tong.

## Nursing Care Management

To assess the child in traction, it is essential to know the purpose for which the traction is applied and to understand the basic principles of traction. Regular assessment of both the child and the traction apparatus is required (see [Nursing Care Guidelines](#) box). Many of the nursing problems associated with a child in traction are related to immobility. Modifying the child's diet, encouraging fluids, increasing fiber, and offering a mild stool softener may be necessary to prevent constipation.

### Nursing Care Guidelines

#### Traction Care

##### Understand Therapy

Understand purpose of traction.

Understand function of traction in each specific situation.

##### Maintain Traction

Check desired line of pull and relationship of distal fragment to proximal fragment. Check whether fragment is being directed