

Penrose Sleeve

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SURGICAL GEM

In order to achieve best cosmetic results, maintaining both a sterile as well as blood-free field during dermatologic surgery is of paramount importance.

Poor surgical results occur most frequently from hematoma and wound infection. Bleeding, even under a well-designed flap or graft, places undue pressure on overlying skin. Circulation through patent vessels is retarded, and wound healing is delayed or even inhibited. Likewise, poor sterile technique can result in bacterial contamination of a wound. Resultant cellulitis or abscess formation will also impair wound healing with associated poor cosmetic results. As a result, a clean, blood-free wound base is critical before the final repair is undertaken.

Electrodesiccation of microbleeding points is the principle method of achieving hemostasis. The monopolar Birtcher Hyfrecator* is the standard device used in our practice and throughout much of the dermatologic community.

In the past, maintaining a sterile handle on the Hyfrectaor has been difficult since electrical connections in the handle tolerate autoclaving poorly. In our experience the handle becomes nonfunctional after 4 to 6 sterilizations. At a cost of \$25 per handle, we needed to come up with an alternative. Our nurse clinician devised a simple and reliable method for protecting the handle. We simply slip a sterile



FIGURE 1. Sterile penrose drain is slipped over the Hyfrecator handle.



FIGURE 2. After the sleeve has been placed, the needle tip is reinserted and the nurse regloves.

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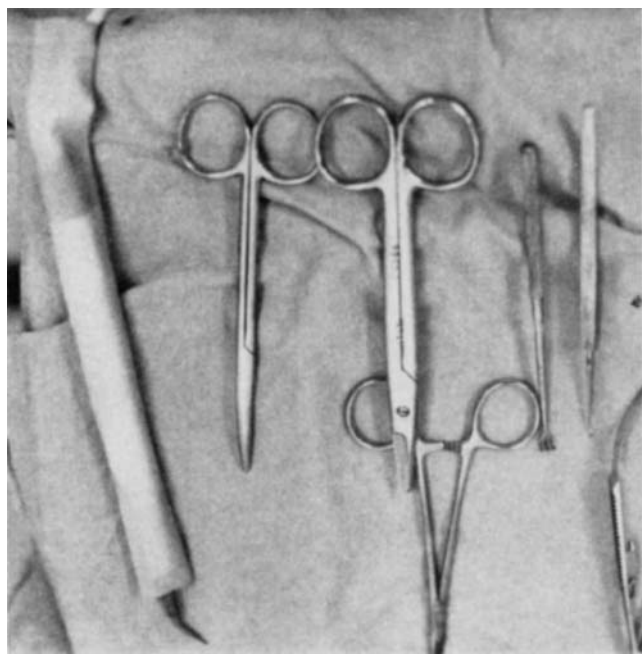


FIGURE 3. The sterile handle can be placed safely on the instrument tray.



FIGURE 4. Using sterile handle to electrodesiccate.

penrose drain over the handle (Figures 1 to 4). This sterile sleeve allows us to place the handle on the instrument tray or sterile field without fear of contamination. The handles no longer need sterilization, thus preserving their functional life.

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A fund has been established to provide monies for the initiation of residency programs in dermatologic surgery and to award

scholarships to resident dermatologists-in-training who seek specialized surgical training in existing dermatologic programs or in the private practices of members of the American Society of Dermatologic Surgery.

The Educational Fund for Dermatologic Surgery has been established to further excellence in patient care through education in dermatologic surgery. Since the formation of the American Society for Dermatologic Surgery in 1970, there have been significant advances in the field of dermatologic surgery. We've accomplished much in the last decade that we can point to with pride. But there's more to be done.

We appeal to you to assure the future advancement of dermatologic surgery by supporting the Educational Fund. Your contribution is tax-deductible.

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