DISCUSSION
The authors have used the above measures in six patients without encountering any wound complication. In the event of wound dehiscence, the graft will still be covered and protected by the lateral fascio-cutaneous flap.

References

BACKGROUND
Port site herniation and Richter’s type of strangulation of the bowel is a recognised complication following laparoscopic procedures.1,2 Hand suturing of port sites can be difficult, especially in obese patients. A simple, safe, quick and cost-effective technique is described.

TECHNIQUE
After removal of the port, the modified aneurysm needle (bent to a ‘J’ shape), threaded with an appropriate suture, is passed into the abdomen through the port site incision. The needle is then turned 90° and the eye is forced through the peritoneum and sheath from inside the abdomen, by pulling on the handle at an angle (Fig. 1A). The eye of the needle with the suture loop emerges. One arm of the suture loop is drawn out. The instrument (still threaded) is then drawn back into the peritoneal cavity, turned 180° and forced through the opposite side sheath, as described above. The suture is then withdrawn to free the needle (Fig. 1B). The tip is then drawn back into the peritoneal cavity and needle eased out.

DISCUSSION
Various techniques have been described; some require expensive disposable instruments,3 whilst others need intraperitoneal threading of the needle, which can be time consuming and risk injury to intraperitoneal structures.4 Aneurysm needles are readily

A simple, safe and cost-effective technique for closure of difficult laparoscopic port sites
R GURUSWAMY, JGN STUDLEY
Department of Surgery, James Paget Hospital, Great Yarmouth, UK

CORRESPONDENCE TO
R Guruswamy, Department of Surgery, James Paget Hospital, Gorleston, Great Yarmouth, Norfolk NR31 6LA, UK
E: gurusumathi@hotmail.com

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DISCUSSION
Various techniques have been described; some require expensive disposable instruments,3 whilst others need intraperitoneal threading of the needle, which can be time consuming and risk injury to intraperitoneal structures.4 Aneurysm needles are readily
available and re-usable. In our hands, the needle is placed blindly, but this method can be performed under laparoscopic vision. The technique is straightforward to learn.

References

TECHNICAL SECTION

Creating retroperitoneal space for retroperitoneoscopy using RUSH® bladder hydrodistension catheter
VINCENT CY TANG, SIMON RJ BOTT, PIETER J LE ROUX
Department of Urology, St Helier Hospital, Carshalton, Surrey, UK

CORRESPONDENCE TO
Vincent CY Tang, Clinical Fellow in Renal Transplant Surgery, Surgical Office, Department of Renal Transplant Surgery, Renal Unit, St Helier Hospital, Wrythe Lane, Carshalton, Surrey SM5 1AA, UK
T: +44 (0)208 2962679; F: +44 (0)208 6446191; E: vincetang@hotmail.com

BACKGROUND
Creating a retroperitoneal space is an important early step in retroperitoneoscopy.1 Commercially, there are balloon-dissection devices designed for this purpose (Auto Suture; Tyco Healthcare, Norwalk, CT, USA). However, we describe the use of a disposable 16 Ch RUSH® bladder hydrodistension catheter (RUSH Inc., High Wycombe, Bucks, UK) as a cheap, safe and effective alternative (Fig. 1).

TECHNIQUE
The patient is placed in the lateral decubitus position. A small incision is made below the tip of 12th rib into the retroperitoneal space. The catheter, with a maximum balloon capacity of 1500 ml, is guided by a finger into the retroperitoneum. A total of 800 ml of normal saline is instilled into the catheter using a catheter syringe. The saline is then aspirated with suction, and the catheter removed, before laparoscopic ports are inserted.

DISCUSSION
We have completed 40 retroperitoneoscopies (22 nephrectomies, 10 pyeloplasties, 8 ureterolithotomies) using this technique, and adequately created retroperitoneal space in all cases. There were no peritoneal injuries or complications. Balloon rupture occurred in one patient, the fragments were easily retrieved retroperitoneoscopically. The catheter has significant cost benefit over the balloon-dissection device – £56.79 versus £164.97, respectively. Furthermore, the hydrodistension catheter is licensed for intracorporeal inflation with saline up to 1500 ml; alternative methods described using a surgical glove finger tied to the end of a catheter1 or Foley catheter balloon2 are not. The catheter is made of latex, so caution should be taken for possible latex allergy. In conclusion, we have found this to be a safe and cost-effective technique for establishing the retroperitoneal space prior to laparoscopic surgery.

References