

Technical Section

TECHNICAL NOTES & TIPS

TECHNICAL TIPS

Distraction of the ankle joint during arthroscopy

L BALL, R HAWKEN, J DAVIS

Department of Trauma and Orthopaedics, Torbay Hospital, Torquay, UK

CORRESPONDENCE TO

Luke Ball, Department of Trauma and Orthopaedics, Torbay Hospital, Lawes Bridge, Torquay TQ2 7AA, UK
T: +44 (0)1803 614567; E: lukeball@doctors.org.uk

Traction during ankle arthroscopy provides optimum views of the joint space. A length of 6-inch crepe bandage is tied around the surgeon's waist. A Guhl ankle distractor foot strap (Smith & Nephew Inc., Andover, MA 01810, USA) is then clipped directly onto the crepe (Fig. 1). The surgeon can then apply more or less tension by simply leaning forwards or back. This is a simple, cheap and effective method for distracting the ankle joint during arthroscopy without the use of a distraction jig. It also reduces the risk of tearing drapes and, therefore, desterilising the operative field.



Figure 1 Illustration of the technique.

Pelvic surgery: water or saline wash?

SANJEEV PATHAK, TOM WATCYN-JONES, PATRICK CUTINHA
Department of Urology, Royal Hallamshire Hospital, Sheffield, UK

CORRESPONDENCE TO

Sanjeev Pathak, Department of Urology, Royal Hallamshire Hospital, Glossop Road, Sheffield S10 2JF, UK
T: +44 (0)114 271 1900; E: wbapathak@yahoo.com



Figure 1 Operative field after water lavage.



Figure 2 Operative field after saline lavage.