Autolok band

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SUMMARY A braided polyester band to encircle the globe for retinal detachment has been tested. It has some advantages over other types of band.

Arruga (1958) used a Supramid thread to encircle the globe for retinal detachment. It was followed by various other absorbable (gelatin) and non-absorbable materials (silicone rubber). Schepens *et al.* (1960) used a silicone rubber band to produce a relatively deeper indentation with a substantially reduced risk of scleral perforation. Natural materials are used in encircling procedures and Crock and Galbraith (1966) described the use of plantaris tendon.

The Autolok band is a non-absorbable band of braided Dacron (polyester fibre) (Fig. 1). A preliminary trial shows that it is a satisfactory method of encircling the globe and is useful for the following reasons:

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(1) The introducing end of the band is passed under each muscle and locking is usually performed in the lower temporal quadrant, as there is more room to manoeuvre. It is inserted at the desired distance from the limbus and locked.

(2) Easier threading is facilitated by holding the braid between the entry point (Fig. 2) and the exit point (Fig. 3).

(3) The band can be moved forwards or backwards as desired and postoperatively can be adjusted if necessary.

(4) The band can be secured in each quadrant with sutures.

(5) A tight-fitting result is obtained because the fabric of which the band consists expands slightly when moist. The two braided surfaces adhere to one another and this contact prevents slipping (Fig. 4).

(6) The duration of the operation is reduced because of minimal suturing.

Fig. 1 The Autolok band

Fig. 2 *Entry point at A*

Fig. 3 *Pointed end coming out of exit point B*

Fig. 4 *Lock and braided surface*

(7) Sterilisation of the band is easy. Autoclaving at 130°C for 20 minutes under a pressure of 30 lb/in² (21 092 kg/m²).

The bands are supplied by Dunlop Limited, Precision Rubbers Division, Shepshed, Loughborough, England.

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References

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