Figure 1 Outline of hand simulating wound to be closed.

Figure 2 The wound is closed and the 'dog ear' appears.

the skin of the dorsum of the first web space like a dog ear, which is presented to the patient (Figs 1 and 2).

Innovative way of taking bone graft from the femoral head

RAJEEV VERMA, MARK A ASHWORTH

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

CORRESPONDENCE TO

Dr Rajeev Verma, SHO A&E, Torbay Hospital, Lawes Bridge, Torquay TQ2 7AA, UK. T: +44 (0)1803 654204; M: +44 (0)7742 391270; E: rajeevverma12@rediffmail.com

We describe an innovative method of taking bone graft (allograft or autograft) from a femoral head using standard orthopaedic implements to hold the femoral head while coring out the bone. This overcomes the difficulty in grasping the spherical shaped head. A starter hole is made with a 3.2-mm drill bit at an angle of 45° in the proximal femoral head. The drill bit is then pushed through the head transversely. With the drill bit acting as a support, to prevent the HeyGroves retractor slipping, the femoral head is held whilst acetabular reamers core out the cancellous graft (Fig. 1).

Figure 1 Femoral head held with HeyGroves retractor to allow reaming of bone graft.