administration of large quantities of saline under pressure or in a pulsatile fashion, which we feel appropriately for our location, resembles a bagpipe. A saline bag (akin to the reservoir bag of the bagpipe) connected to a Yankauer suction tube (the chanter) is held in the axilla between the lateral chest wall and the medial upper arm. This allows the flow rate to be controlled or pulsed by pressure exerted by abduction of the arm and the stream directed using the tube. The entire system has the advantage of being held with just one arm, leaving the other hand free. We feel this is a simple, elegant and easily reproducible method, using readily available materials, which can be used in trauma situations 'in the field'.

Reference

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A simple technique for accurate placement of patch angioplasty apex sutures

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Figure 1 Schematic representation of the described technique during right carotid endarterectomy. Abbreviations: CCA, common carotid artery; ECA, external carotid artery; ICA, internal carotid artery; STA, superior thyroid artery.

Haematoma formation following carotid endarterectomy is a common cause of postoperative hoarseness and often results from inexact placement of proximal angle arterial wall sutures during patch application. A simple method that permits accurate placement of each suture at the right distance and correct bite is for the assistant to apply tension to the suture in the opposite direction to its path of travel following passage through the patch rather than the artery, as is traditional (Fig. 1). This opens up the anastomosis allowing placement of the subsequent arterial wall suture under direct vision whilst maintaining tension on the anastomosis line.

DIY laparoscopic kit

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With the on-going reduction of junior doctors' hours, surgical trainees find it ever more difficult to establish their laparoscopic

Figure 1 The BioStatIT DIY laparoscopic kit.