Figure 1 An olive tipped wire is passed through distal fragment of nail.

Figure 2 A second wire is passed through distal fragment of nail.

Figure 3 The olive tipped wire is withdrawn and is shown to impinge against the second wire and the outer tip of nail.

devices have been described.¹⁻³ No additional exposure or equipment is required with this technique. It is important that the proximal part of the nail is removed first rather than attempting to extract both parts at the same time. This may cause undue stress on the olive which may break. This is a simple solution to a potentially very difficult problem.

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TECHNICAL TIP

The use of an axillary crutch as a knee flexion contracture correction device

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We describe a simple, patient-controlled technique for the treatment of early flexion contracture following total knee replacement. An axillary crutch may be used to aid passive extension in the postoperative period. The leg is placed through the inverted crutch and a foam pad is positioned between the patient's heel and the axillary pad (Fig. 1). The hand grip is then adjusted to the level of the knee joint and is wrapped with a wool dressing. The patient exerts a downward pressure on the foot of the crutch to gain knee extension.

Figure 1 The axillary crutch.

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Please note that the co-author R Telford was unfortunately omitted from the original list of authors. The correct author list is given above.