Orthopaedic usage of sterile ophthalmic drapes

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We describe an inexpensive technique to minimise contamination of operative field by bone dust in hip resurfacing. During femoral head reaming, multiple wet cotton swabs are usually placed around femoral head, causing surgeon inconvenience as reamer entangles in the swab threads. We pass the femoral head through apertures of two sterile ophthalmic Steridrapes (3M, Bracknell, Berkshire UK) placed together, costing £20.41 each (Fig. 1). When the reamer touches the drape, it tears the superficial one avoiding reamer entanglement, increasing surgeon convenience. The drapes are then lifted up as a single layer along with the dust, avoiding spillage into the wound.

Figure 1 Use of two sterile ophthalmic Steridrapes to minimise contamination.

Safe method of bending Kirschner wires after insertion

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The insertion of Kirschner wires has been associated with the risk of needlestick type injury from the sharp ends of the metal wire. We describe an alternative way of bending the K-wire after its insertion. The K-wire is inserted into the bony fragments. The protruding part of the K-wire is covered with a stainless-steel 'Poole' suction device (readily found on any general surgical set), thus preventing accidental injury. This will also act as a lever facilitating bending the tip into position. The technique is simple, safe and allows the surgeon to complete the operation in a protected manner.