Technical Section

TECHNICAL NOTES AND TIPS

TECHNICAL NOTES

Suction drain using a drip-giving set: a simple and cheap technique

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Figure 1 Side holes are created in the tube part of the drip-giving set using scissors

BACKGROUND

Resources are very limited in third world countries. Suction drains are expensive. We describe a technique of using a drip-giving set and bag to construct a suction drain following thyroid and parotid surgery to prevent the formation of haematomas.

TECHNIQUE

A sterilised drain set is used; small side holes are made in the tubes using scissors (average 6–10 holes) (Fig 1). The drip bag is emptied and a negative pressure is created (Fig 2). (Saline is used for the operation and is not discarded.) The drip set is connected to the bag to act as a suction drain. The roller clamp can be used to control flow and prevent the loss of negative pressure when changing the bottle. It can also be used as a simple drain. The closed drainage system helps to prevent infection.

Figure 2 Air is evacuated from the saline bag to create negative pressure and the bag is connected to the tube.

DISCUSSION

We have used this technique in over 50 patients in Gadarif Teaching Hospital. It is effective, cheap, removal is simple and we did not encounter any problems.

Reducing particulate metal wound contamination when removing volar locking plates in the distal radius

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BACKGROUND

With the advent and increased use of locking plates in orthopaedic trauma, new and challenging complications have arisen. The inability to remove one or more of the locked screws from a plate may necessitate cutting the plate from around the screws with a high-speed burr and then removing the locked screw attached to the plate with pliers. This method produces large volumes of particulate metal debris and heat. We have developed an easy and reproducible way of reducing the amount of metal debris contamination during this procedure.