The use of a five-hole pin clamp for removal of Hoffmann II® external fixation system

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Effortless tension for Thomas splints

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External fixation is used as treatment for trauma. Missing the manufacturer's specific key makes removing the device difficult. Britnell *et al* reported the use of an oxygen cylinder key to remove an external fixator.¹

The five-hole pin clamp can be used for removal of an external fixator. This is an individual piece of non-sterile equipment that can be found in trauma theatres and fits on to the pin-to-rod coupling of the Hoffman II® external fixation system (Stryker, Kalamazoo, MI, US) (Fig 1). This will prevent unnecessary use of sterile equipment, saving time and money, and leaving valuable kit available. This technique has been used in our department without any complications.

Reference

1. Britnell WG, McDonnell SM, Handley R. The use of an oxygen cylinder key for removal of a Hoffmann II external fixator. *Ann R Coll Surg Engl* 2011; **93**: 417.

Figure 1 Five-hole pin clamp and pin-to-rod coupling on engagement. Once engaged it will enable the removal of the Hoffmann II® external fixation system.

BACKGROUND

The Thomas splint has stood the test of time immobilising femoral fractures, reducing haemorrhage, improving pain and facilitating transport. This is due to its simplicity, ease of application, few complications and non-invasive nature.¹

Traditionally, twisting the distal cord around a tongue depressor creates tension. It can be difficult to produce the desired amount of

Figure 1

Figure 2