A novel way to secure a chest drain

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COMMENT ON

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Although well written and illustrated, Maritz and McLauchlan's description of tube thoracotomy fixation is not novel. Planı describes the same technique.¹ In South Africa, which sees more than its fair share of chest injuries, the fixation technique is commonly referred to as a 'Jo'burg knot'. It would be only proper to acknowledge the original author appropriately.

Reference

1. Planı F. Securing intercostal drains in trauma surgical practice – how I do it. *CME* 2004; **22**: 388–390.

AUTHOR'S RESPONSE

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Thank you for pointing out this *CME* article from 2004,¹ which we had not found. It does indeed describe a similar method of securing a chest drain. (The only difference mentioned by Planı is the insertion of a vertical mattress suture with added sutures either side rather than the single horizontal mattress as in our technical note.) However, the technique of the suture tightening when the tube is pulled is the same and we should indeed now acknowledge Planı's article with apologies.

In fact, the technique goes back much further (and may well be described in unfound articles elsewhere) as I was shown it in about 1993 at an *Advanced Trauma Life Support*® course by Stephen Miles (then at the emergency department at St Bartholomew's Hospital in London). He had learnt it in South Africa some years before. The technique certainly works well!

Reference

1. Planı F. Securing intercostal drains in trauma surgical practice – how I do it. *CME* 2004; **22**: 388–390.