Albarran deflecting bridge: an aid to intra-detrusor injection of botulinum toxin

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Intra-detrusor botulinum toxin is used widely in urology, and can be administered under general anaesthesia or local anaesthesia. If undertaken using general anaesthesia, a fine needle is passed through the cystoscope into the bladder. However, the needle often exits the cystoscope in an unpredictable position. We found that using the Albarran deflecting bridge ensures that the needle leaves the cystoscope at the 6 o'clock position (Fig 1), thereby making the procedure easier.

Figure 1 Needle exiting the cystoscope at the 6 o'clock position using the Albarran deflecting bridge

The treatment of deep infection by intraoperative manufacture of removable, antibiotic impregnated bead strings

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BACKGROUND

Antibiotic beads are a useful adjunct in treating deep infection such as infected hip prostheses, especially if there is extensive soft tissue

Figure 1 The finished bead string

involvement. These are made by hospital pharmacies and so a decision about their use needs to be made in advance of the operation. We describe a technique for manufacturing removable beads intraoperatively.

TECHNIQUE

Use a length of wire such as that used in tension band procedures. Fold in half and twist together. The spiral formed will increase cement adherence to the wire. Use one mix of bone cement with added antibiotic powder. When the cement is mouldable, form several 1cm diameter balls. Push the doubled-over end of wire through the centre of each ball and advance. The ends of the two wire strands can be doubled back and pushed in to the first ball to aid removal. Space the cement balls at 2–3cm intervals. Once the cement has hardened, place the bead string in the wound. It can be left in situ or if removal is preferred, one end of the string can be left protruding through the wound.

DISCUSSION

This is a useful technique for cases when asking pharmacists to make antibiotic bead strings would cause unacceptable delays in treatment, such as when the extent of infection is only realised intraoperatively or a case of florid infection needs treatment out of hours, when pharmacy staff may not be available.