Figure 1 Intraoperative photograph illustrating the problem of an oblique entry to the common femoral vessels, putting the stent graft at risk of bending

Novel approach to drainage of a right subphrenic abscess using trans-diaphragmatic laparoscopy

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BACKGROUND

A subphrenic abscess is an accumulation of pus between the diaphragm, liver and spleen. It results in serious complications if

Figure 1 Trans-diaphragmatic approach to the right subphrenic space through an incision in the chest wall. The black arrow denotes the diaphragm, the white arrow denotes pus in the right subphrenic space.

not treated effectively. Failure of percutaneous drainage, an inaccessible abdomen via a laparoscopic approach due to adhesions, and a high risk of redo-laparotomy can make management challenging.

A novel approach to right subphrenic collections entails accessing the pleural cavity via the tenth intercostal space and creating a small 'diaphragmatic window' through which laparoscopic drainage can be achieved (Fig 1). This method is safe and readily reproducible. Trans-diaphragmatic laparoscopy is an effective approach for the draining of right subphrenic collections in high-risk patients.

A novel technique for harvesting fat for breast augmentation

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Lipofilling following breast conserving surgery gives excellent cosmetic results. This fat harvesting technique minimises additional equipment purchase. A 600ml Redivac drain (Biomet, Bridgend, UK) is connected to the suction machine using a Yankauer sucker via a cruciate incision in the concertinaed top. Suction tubing connects the fat harvesting cannula and bottle (Fig 1). The required volume is harvested using pressures of 20–40mmHg. Approximately 10 minutes is required to harvest 400cc of aspirate (200cc usable fat). The fat is left to allow the infiltrate to separate. The infiltrate is removed via a feeding catheter, allowing the fat to be aspirated for transfer to the donor site.

Figure 1 Set-up of equipment with harvesting cannula attached to suction via Redivac bottle to allow collection of aspirate