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Shouldering responsibility for intraoperative bariatric amputees

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Careful positioning of patients undergoing bariatric intervention is paramount to prevent pressure areas and minimise patient movement on the operating table when placed in the reverse Trendelenburg position.¹ Limbs should therefore be supported by the use of limb holders.¹ For most patients, the feet are placed on foot plates, the legs split and the knees bandaged. For single limb amputees, supporting the stump site can be problematic as the foot plate will not

Figure 1 Shoulder support used at stump site

be in contact with the patient. We have found that a shoulder support can be deployed to brace the stump site and maintain patient position during an operation (Fig 1).

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An updated non-drip plaster of Paris

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Previous methods for non-drip plaster of Paris (POP) use Tubigrip™ (Mölnlycke, Dunstable, UK),¹ which can be cumbersome to fit over larger sheets of plaster. We describe a clean, easy to construct modification of the non-drip POP. A length of crepe bandage double the length of the desired POP, and of similar width, is placed on the plaster trolley. The POP is submerged in water, drained and placed on one side of the crepe. The other half is folded over the top, creating a dry outer covering (Fig 1). This modification is useful for all sizes, and it is clean, dry and easy to remove in one piece.

References

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Figure 1 Plaster of Paris placed between two layers of crepe bandage