How to remove a ring using an oxygen mask

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Oxygen mask straps (Fig 1a) offer a cheap (£0.34 per mask) and easy to access method for removing rings from swollen fingers, either in emergency or perioperative situations. The elasticated quality of the strap enables continuous compression of the soft tissues and the aglet tip enables easy passage of the strap under the ring. Pass the strap under the ring using the aglet (Fig 1b). Wind the strap around the finger to provide active compression of the tissues (Fig 1c). Pull the proximal end of the strap to remove the ring (Fig 1d).

Demonstrating local flaps – A simple model as part of informed consent

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BACKGROUND

Axial and random flaps play a crucial role in reconstruction of oncological and traumatic defects. It can be difficult for patients to understand the resection required, reconstruction and resulting scar. This effect can be amplified with multistage procedures.

TECHNIQUE

As part of the consent process, the flap is drawn in the medical notes. It can then be cut with scissors and taped into its designed recipient site. Figure 1 demonstrates a transposition flap of the scalp with the resultant dog-ear, which often requires future surgery. Figure 2 demonstrates a forehead flap with consideration of resection margin, flap and donor site.

DISCUSSION

The model is crude but does demonstrate scar position and anatomical considerations such as dog-ears. Documenting in the medical notes is useful for the consent process, surgical planning and for future referral for both patients and surgeons.