Technical Section [TECHNICAL NOTES AND TIPS

Novel role of the Harris femoral head gauge as an areola marker in breast procedures

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The Harris gauge is used to determine the prosthetic size in an Austin–Moore hemiarthroplasty, but its use has decreased with changes to current practice. We have identified a novel role for the gauge following a suggestion by an experienced theatre practitioner.

The gauge offers a range of diameters (38–63mm; Figures 1, 2). The nipple position is marked and the desired areolar diameter is identified. The plate is placed on the planned areola location, ensuring that the planned nipple position is central. A marker is used to draw the circumference, the gauge is removed and an incision made on the outer edge of the marking.

Figure 1 Close up image of Harris gauge with the different diameters shown.

Figure 2 The range of diameters available for measuring femoral head and nipple–areolar diameter.

ON-Q pain relief system insertion technique: intraoperative insertion of a pre-peritoneal catheter for continuous local anaesthetic infusion

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The efficacy of postoperative analgesia remains crucial in reducing early postoperative complications.¹ Intraoperatively inserted catheters allowing continuous local anaesthetic infusion into laparotomy wounds are regaining popularity, with more effective devices being introduced.²

Our video demonstrates the technique for insertion of a ON-Q® Pain Relief System (B Braun Melsungen AG, Germany) into an abdominal wound.

Precise catheter insertion is performed under visual and tactile guidance. It is postulated that fewer opioids are required, including