

A Quick, Economical and Easy Method of Skin Graft Fixation

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The immobilization of a skin graft is a key factor in its take of a skin graft.

Traditionally, a bolster dressing is used to secure and keep the graft immobilized on its bed.¹ Its pressure obliterates dead space, and prevents hematoma and seroma formation.

This step usually falls toward the end of a long surgery, when anesthetic time may be at a premium and surgeon fatigue at its peak. Here, we describe a new method of graft immobilization which is effective, fast, and economical.

The method which uses a skin stapler and linen threads for bolster dressing is described here.

The skin graft is placed over the prepared recipient bed and fixed in the following manner. A free linen tie is placed over the margin of the wound, with one end long and the other end short but adequately long to hand tie a surgical knot, and the stapler is fired over the thread, fixing it to the graft and the bed (►Fig. 1).

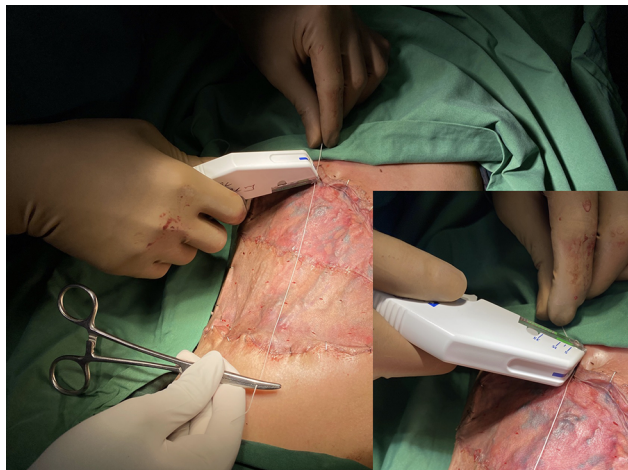


Fig. 1 Linen tie being placed across while the staple is being applied.

A surgical knot is then tied over the staple (►Fig. 2).

The required number of such linen ties and staples are placed over the margin radially.

A bolster dressing is placed over the graft, and the linen ties are tied over it in the usual manner (►Fig. 3).

The traditional method of graft immobilization uses multiple sutures taken with a swaged needle and tied over a bolster dressing. This requires multiple foils of suture material, which is expensive and time-consuming.

A glove technique has also been described recently,² in which a sterile glove is cut open and is fixed with staples outside one margin of the grafted wound, stretched over a cotton bolster, and then fixed outside the opposite margin.

A modified bolster dressing with the use of continuous suction is also described in literature.³

We have found the described “stapler and linen” technique to be quick, economical, and simple, as linen ties are



Fig. 2 Surgical knot tied with the linen thread over the staple.

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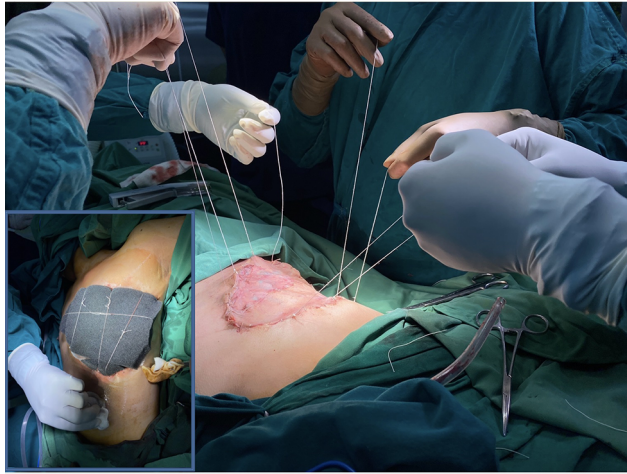


Fig. 3 Multiple linen ties taken; inset shows the same tied over bolster dressing.

readily available in any OT, and the stapler is usually already in use in the procedure.

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Conflicts of Interest

There are no conflicts of interest.

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