The Use Of A Red Rubber Tube As Nostril Splint

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KEY WORDS
stenosis, retainer

ABSTRACT
This is a simple, effective, inexpensive and easily available substitute for the more conventional acrylic nostril retainer.

INTRODUCTION
Nostril retainer plays a vital role during and after surgery. Many types of retainers have been devised using perspex, acrylic and silicons (Bajaj and Bailey 1969; Shah 1967: and Matsuo and Hirose, 1991). Experience of a red rubber tube as a nostril retainer in cases of nostril stenosis is presented.

Instead of conventional acrylic nostril retainer a piece of red rubber suction tube of external diameter 1 cm., internal diameter 0.5 cm. and length approximately 2 cm. was used as a nostril retainer during and after surgery. It was removed after 10 days and reinserted daily for nine months. A follow up of 16-20 months in three cases of nostril stenosis showed optimal patency of the nostril. Other two cases due to lacerated injury were treated in similar fassion. Follow up is satisfactory.
FIGURES:
1. Complete Stenosis of Rt. nostril
2. Red Rubber Suction Tube Used as Nostril Retainer.
3. Tube in Position
4. Post-Operative Result of Case in Photo 1 After 16 Months.

DISCUSSION
Lack of meticulous attention in keeping the anterior naris apparature patent with a dilator often leads to stenosis.

Acrylic type prosthesis have been often used. But the rubber tubing has proved to be cost effective and equally satisfactory.