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A Khan

M N. Siddiqui

M Ahmed

Aga Khan University, mushtaq.ahmed@aku.edu

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Recommended Citation

Khan, A., Siddiqui, M. N., Ahmed, M. (1993). A simple technique of umbilical port closure in laparoscopic cholecystectomy. *Annals of the Royal College of Surgeons of England*, 75(6), 440.

Available at: https://ecommons.aku.edu/pakistan_fhs_mc_surg_surg/685

SURGICAL TECHNIQUE

A simple technique of umbilical port closure in laparoscopic cholecystectomy

Arifullah Khan FRCSEd
Instructor

Mushtaq Ahmed FRCSEd
Professor

M N Siddiqui FRCS
Assistant Professor

Department of Surgery, The Aga Khan University Hospital, Karachi, Pakistan

Key words: Laparoscopic cholecystectomy; Hernia

The emergence of laparoscopic cholecystectomy has been greeted with enthusiasm by surgeons and patients alike. However, with the passage of time complications related to this new approach are being published (1). Herniation through the laparoscopic ports has been reported (2), but it is still too early to assess the true incidence. The placement of sutures to close the umbilical port after the procedure is a tedious and technically difficult manoeuvre, and hence often avoided or considered unnecessary (3). We describe a simple and effective technique of umbilical port closure. For the other ports we recommend using the Z technique of trocar introduction.

Technique

Via an umbilical skin incision the linea alba is exposed. A Kocher's clamp is applied to the sheath adjacent to the umbilicus. Two stay sutures using 1 Vicryl® are applied, above and below the Kocher's clamp. The Veress needle and the trocar are introduced between the stay sutures. At the end of the procedure the stay sutures are simply tied together to provide an effective, simple and secure closure (Fig. 1).

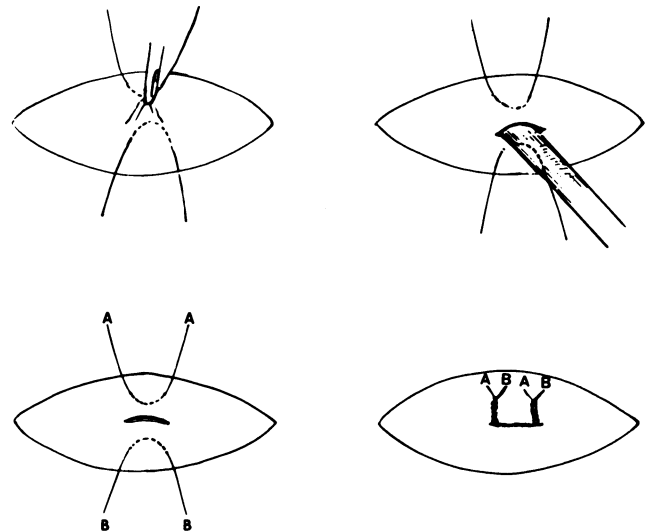


Figure 1.

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Correspondence to: M N Siddiqui FRCS, Assistant Professor, Department of Surgery, The Aga Khan University Hospital, PO Box 3500, Stadium Road, Karachi, Pakistan

Received 28 March 1993