A Simple Stopple Introducer

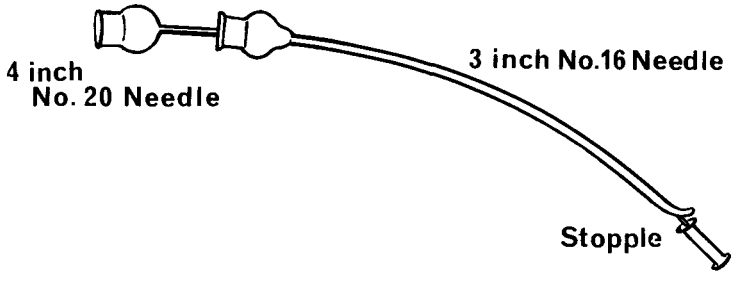
By Dennis Clark (Weston-super-Mare)

The use of stopples through the eardrum is increasing with the realization that they act as drains, as in other parts of the body, and not as paths of infection into the tympanum. A simple inexpensive introducer may therefore be welcome.

The introducer described is only one needle inside another so that the outer can be made to push off a stopple threaded on to the end of the inner. Details may be altered at will but those described have been found to be convenient. The introducer is made as follows:

Take one 3-inch No. 16 (or No. 14) aspiration needle and pass through it one 4-inch No. 20 aspiration needle. With a pair of forceps bend back the point of the No. 16 needle to prevent the sharp point sticking into the flange of the stopple during the use of the introducer. With a wire cutter cut off the point of the No. 20 needle above the bevel and smooth rough corners with a file. Then with the needles threaded through each other (to prevent kinking) butt to butt bend them with the fingers into a smooth curve. The narrower needle will then slip in and out of the larger with enough friction to keep the instrument stable but not enough to prevent easy movement by the fingers of one hand holding the needle butts.

A stopple then threaded on to the blunted point of the inner needle can not only be placed accurately through a myringotomy but can also be pushed off by the action of forefinger, medius and thumb of one hand through separating the butts of the two needles.



A Simple Instrument for Inserting the Stopples

Fig. 1.

A 4-inch No. 20 aspiration needle (blunted) is threaded through a 3-inch No. 16 needle, the end of which is blunted and turned up. Both are bent in an even curve.

The stopple is threaded on the No. 20 needle. By separating the two needle butts the stopple becomes unthreaded. This can be done with one hand and full visibility is ensured.

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