A self-retaining retractor for transmaxillary surgery

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Highmoreś antrum from the anatomical point of view is, of all the paranasal cavities, a structure of relevant importance nowadays for the surgical approach of structures such as the internal maxillary artery, the Vidian nerve, etc.

In the last decade many papers have been published related to this type of procedure in which the use of the surgical microscope is a very valuable asset in the fine management of these delicate tissues.

It is surprising that we have not read any modification to the conventional exposure of the soft tissues involved in the approach to the maxillary sinus.

This paper is written to present a self retaining cheek retractor developed by one of the authors (A.B.) to facilitate the surgical entrance to the operating field and the retraction of the soft tissues of the area, and in this way the surgeon's struggle with the assistant to obtain a clear field of vision is eliminated.

As Shaw says (1966): 'In all surgical operations there is much to be gained from the practical application of time and motion study. Where the surgeon is also required to work through an operating microscope with extreme delicacy upon a very small field, there is even more to be said for economy and deftness of movement.'

Duffy *et al.* (1968) states: 'Steadiness is a prime requisite for the microsurgeon. In much the same way as the competition pistol marksman, the microsurgeon must train to maintain a level of acceptable performance in his surgery. To do his fine work he must have a relaxed, comfortable posture, an acute sense of timing, and above all, a finely honed control of minute hand movements.'

Bearing in mind that the otolaryngologist does some of the surgical procedures mentioned through the microscope, and in some occasions the assistant will at the same time have to retract and observe through the observing tube his task will not be as gratifying as one would expect.

The retractor is made out of an adjustable polythene headband and goes over and around the head in the manner of a Jenkin's or Denis Browne's headlight, this headband in front is designed to hold a sliding bar which by means of a double joint-system culminates in a blade that can be placed in any position and will act as a guard in order not to let the tissues fall into the operating field.

The metal parts of the retractor are made of fine stainless steel and can be autoclaved. The headband should be sterilized in an antiseptic solution.

The dimensions and aspect of the retractor can be clearly seen in Fig. 1.

The accompanying Figures (2 and 3) show the two steps necessary to install the instrument and are self evident of the simplicity of its use.

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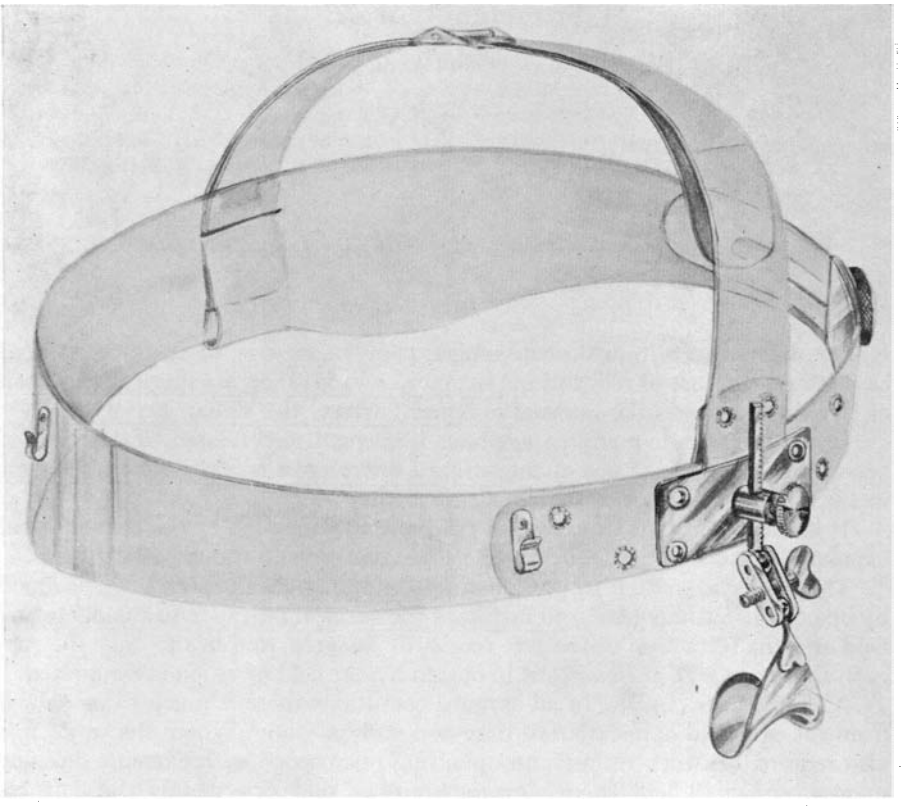


FIG. 1.

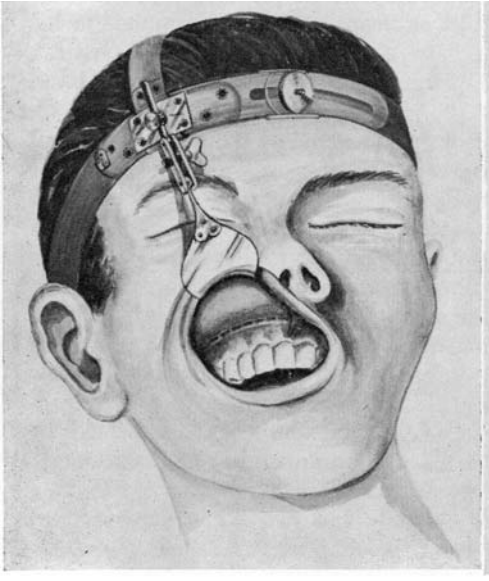


FIG. 2.

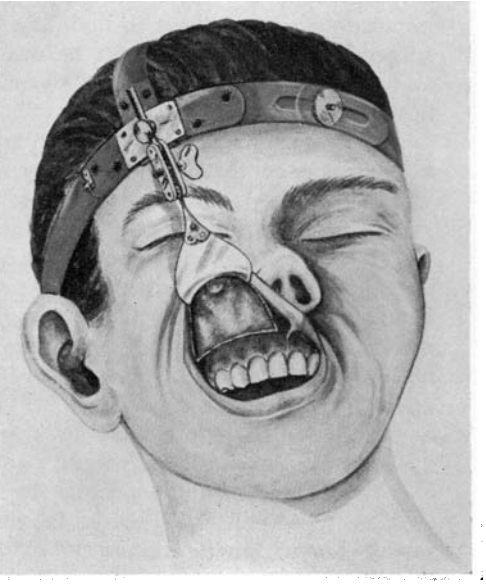


FIG. 3.

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