Developing a new scissor for cleft surgery: The cleft palate dissection scissor

Sir,

We hereby describe a recently developed cleft surgery scissor. The main objective was to ease preparation of the oral mucosa during operation with its unique design.

Nowadays, for almost all surgical interventions, technical solutions have been already established.^[1] Only in a few situations, special instruments should be used. One of such situation is the dissection of the soft tissue of the hard and soft palate in infants with a cleft. With a palate in more sagittal position, dissection could be somewhat frustrating. The risk of pinprick lesions increases during preparation because of limited oral space to separate the different layers of the soft tissue with therefore a greater consecutive risk of fistulas. We hereby describe our new cleft dissection scissor to simplify the preparation.

The two most important advantages in comparison to other dissection scissors are the unique “jet wing” tip design [Figures 1 and 2] in combination with the angled base of the scissor. Both have been developed to minimize the risk of perforation of the palatal mucosa during separation from the maxilla or the muscle and to get easily to the site [Figure 3]. The tip of the scissor is blunt to minimize the risk of penetrating the oral or nasal mucosa. During preparation, the fragile mucosal tissue can easily glide over the tip of the scissor because the surrounding tissue will be supported through the two small lateral wings of the tip with a length of 2 mm [Figure 4].

The new scissor with its unique tip design will facilitate operations in patients with a cleft of the hard or soft palate, especially in premature patients with palatal shelves often in a more sagittal orientation.

Figure 1: Oblique view of the scissor

Figure 2: Top and lateral view of the scissor

Figure 3: Scissor shown during operation

Figure 4: Tip of the scissor in detail

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Conflicts of interest

There are no conflicts of interest.

Till Wagner

Radboud University Medical Center, 6500 HB Nijmegen,
The Netherlands

Address for correspondence: Dr. Till Wagner,
Radboud University Medical Center, Geert Grooteplein-Zuid 10,
6500 HB Nijmegen, The Netherlands.
E-mail: till.wagner@Radboudumc.nl

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A simple modified scissor for combined dissection, cut and ligation.
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