



HAND GLOVE AS A FINGER TOURNIQUET – A BRIEF REVIEW OF THE EXISTING TECHNIQUES & AN ADDENDUM

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ABSTRACT

Hand glove being used as a digital tourniquet is a routine practice in hand surgery. But it has its own innate complications and certain technical refinements to avoid these complications are discussed.

KEYWORDS : Glove Tourniquet; Digital Tourniquet; Digital Tourniquet Complications; Digital Gangrene

Hand gloves are invaluable instruments in daily medical and surgical practice. They are available in sterile and unsterile packs and are used accordingly depending up on the necessity. However apart from personal protection, they offer a wide variety of options in daily practice and are used as desired by the users. One such application of hand glove is the use of its finger part and wrist part as digital tourniquet.^{1,2} However, we would like to add one word of caution about using the hand glove as digital tourniquet such as using the wrist part as tourniquet loop or cutting the closed end of the finger part of the glove and rolling it back [Salem's method]² to the base of the digit so as to act as tourniquet. Both the techniques carries the unfortunate risk of being forgotten to be removed and thereby causing persistent neurovascular compression resulting in digital ischemia or gangrene sometimes ending in loss of the digit.^{3,4} Therefore in order to avoid the forgetful leaving of the tourniquet we separate the elastic part of the wrist segment of the glove and split it and then loop it round the digit and it is held in place using an artery forceps

Sources of Support : None

Acknowledgement : None

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By this way, the artery forceps always reminds the surgical team of the applied tourniquet and dressing cannot be done without removing the artery forceps and thereby the digital tourniquet is released and removed. This prevents the avoidable complications of using the glove parts as loops or rings and would like to make an addendum to the multiple uses of hand glove described in the primary article.

Conflict of Interest : None