

Double Ended Dissector for Ventral Hernia

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THE basic essential of an operative treatment of any type of hernia is a dissection and exposure of the causative sac. In the case of ventral hernia repair, fat loaded skin and sub-cutaneous layers of the abdomen have also to be dissected off from the anterior rectus sheath. The surgeon completes the job of distinguishing these anatomical structures with the combined

help, of scissors, forceps, Watson-Cheyene's dissector, gauze pellets held in forceps etc., thus employing many instruments, one after the other.

We have designed a double ended dissector doing the twin job of defining the hernial sac and raising the skin flaps in ventral hernia. The instrument is so simple that it can be prepared in any local work-

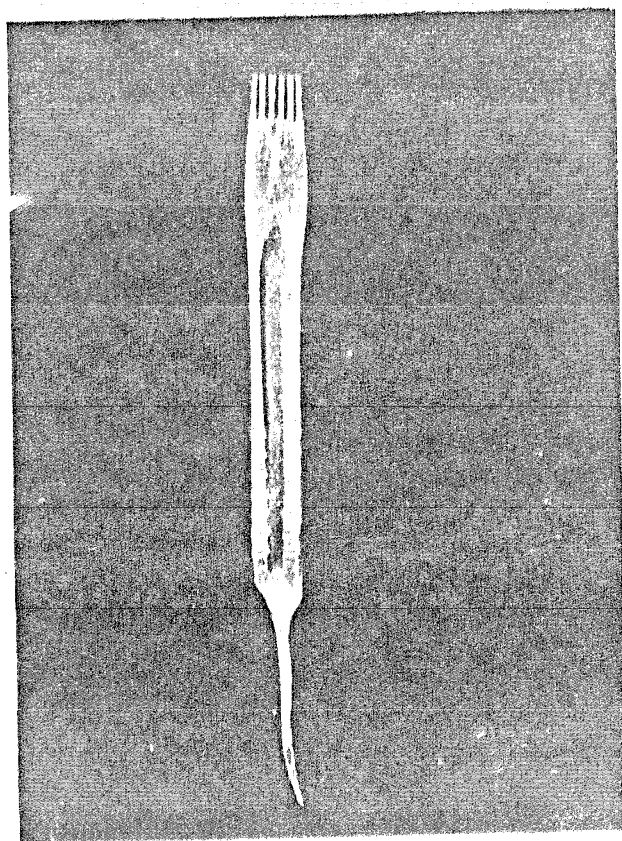


Fig. 1 Double ended dissector for ventral hernia

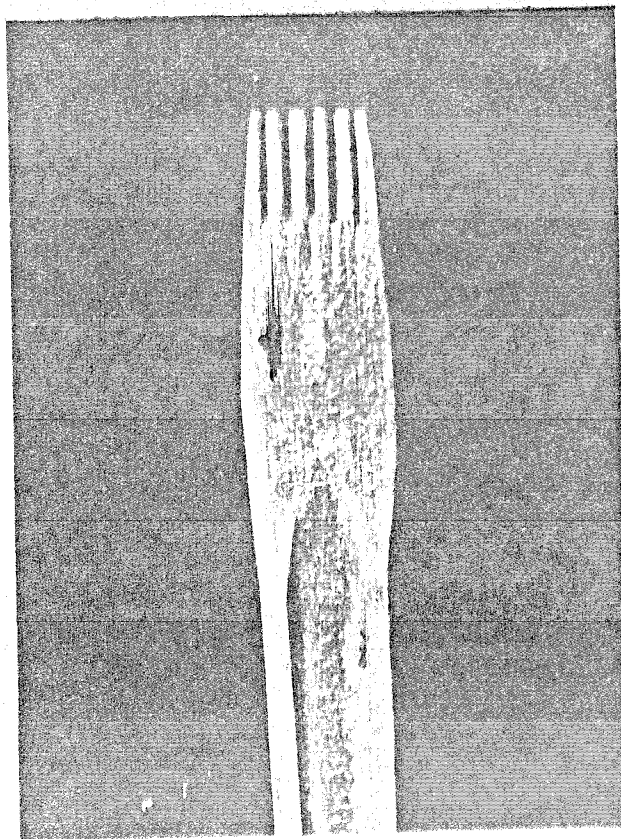


Fig. 2 Double ended dissector—(Comb shaped end)

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shop. It is made from Bard-Parker type of Handle (Fig. 1). The tapering end of the handle is flattened out, blunt and curved just like Watson-Cheyene's dissector. The other end of this instrument is split longitudinally to produce a 'comb'. The ends of this comb are blunt (Fig. 2).

We have tried this instrument in a large number of cases subjected to ventral hernia operations and have found it exte-

mely useful and handy. The comb end is used for raising skin flaps from the anterior rectus sheath. The fat gets pushed away quickly and tiny vessels perforating the anterior rectus sheath become visible which are clamped and ligated before they can bleed, thus avoiding the risk of post-operative haematoma and infections. The other end is helpful in the usual way for defining the hernial sac.

REFERENCES

1. Bard-Parker: Quoted by Heggs, F. M. and Drew, H.G.R. : The instruments of surgery., First edition, London, William-Heinemann Medical books Ltd., 1963, P. 3.
2. Watson Cheyene: Quoted by Pearce, E. : Instruments, appliances and theatre Technique., 2nd edition, London, Faber and Faber Ltd., 1950, P. 48.