

In 61 out of 64 cases primary union occurred. All the strangulated cases healed by first intention. Rubber gloves were used in 3 cases only (6 operations). In doing the rest of these operations with bare hands, the fingers were not allowed to touch the tissues, but as little as possible.

Wound usually cleansed with salt solution and skin with bichloride solution (1-2000). In about half the cases chromoform catgut (No. 0, 1, 2, and 3) was used in skin (as well as in deeper structures). The last six months I have discarded No. 2 and 3. If additional strength is deemed necessary the catgut is used double. Horse-hair and silk worm gut were the other materials used for the skin. Different stitching methods had been employed, viz., interrupted and continuing in the deeper structures, and for skin I used external interrupted, subcutaneous interrupted; external continuous and subcutaneous continuous. Half the stitches were removed on sixth or seventh day, and rest removed within ten to twelve days. The patients were kept in bed from twenty-one to twenty-eight days, enjoined not to assume any work for six weeks after operation, and advised to wear a broad support (no truss) for three or four months.

Measurements. With a special, flat, ruled probe accurate measurements were made on the operating table to ascertain:

1. The length of Poupart's ligament.
2. The length of origin of the internal oblique muscle from Poupart's ligament.
3. Size of 'Ferguson angle' and position of internal ring.

In the sixty-four operations the origin of the internal abdominal oblique and transversalis muscles was deficient in every case. To differentiate between the border of the internal oblique and the fibres of the cremasteric muscle a blunt dissector or protected finger is passed underneath the conjoined tendon and made to travel rapidly to Poupart's ligament, well under the border of the muscle, thus sending the cremasteric downwards and hugging the main muscle to its origin, and then the measurements are taken. The origin (which is the main thing) of these two muscles was deficient in every case, the average length being $1\frac{3}{4}$ inch. It was rare to find an origin of 2 inches; $\frac{1}{2}$ inch and 1 inch was more common."

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