
How to obtain a punch biopsy specimen from the nose using swimmers' clips for hemostasis



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SURGICAL CHALLENGE

Skin punch biopsy specimens of the tip of the nose would ideally require an assistant to perform compression of the adjacent bleeding site to occlude the blood vessels as the dermatologist is suturing the wound. However, the dermatologist is often alone. Therefore, blood either spurts up or streams down onto the patient's eyes or face.

SOLUTION

We propose the use of sterilized¹ swimmers' nose clips to perform compression of the nose's blood supply (Fig 1). By doing so, we can occlude the terminal branches of the facial artery if it is placed on the ala and the ophthalmic artery if placed on the bridge (Fig 2).² Gauze can also be clipped by the nose clip; therefore, if blood runs down it does so on the properly clipped gauze and not onto the patient's eyes. This is an inexpensive, reusable, and effective way to overcome the lack of an assistant and the uncomfortable situation for both patient and physician of a bleeding surgical wound after obtaining a skin biopsy specimen from the nose.



Fig 1. Nose clip placed below the lesion from which a biopsy specimen is to be obtained before the intervention.

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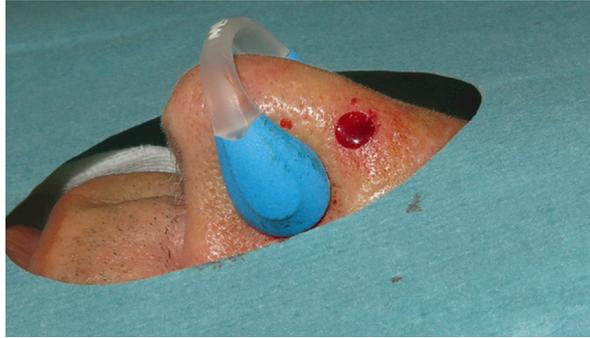


Fig 2. Use of a swimmers' nose clip. Note the minimal bleeding because of compression of the vasculature.

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