

Letters to the Editor

The properties and uses of non-expanded machine-meshed skin grafts

Sir

It was with great interest that I read Davison *et al*'s article on "The properties and uses of non-expanded machine-meshed skin grafts" (*British Journal of Plastic Surgery*, 1986, **39**, 462). I too have found meshed skin grafts to be extremely useful in both contaminated and contour defect wounds. I do, however, take exception to the authors' contention that these grafts cannot be treated in an open fashion.

I have been using meshed grafts with an open technique for approximately 10 years and have had superb results, particularly in treating lower extremity amputation sites in diabetic patients. I do believe that the open technique affords easy access to the wound to remove purulent collections under the grafts and avoid ultimate loss. In addition, the shearing forces between a dressing and underlying muscle are eliminated completely.

Yours faithfully

PAUL R. WEISS, MD,
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To put the record straight

Tie-over sutures fixed by staples

Sir

In the *British Journal of Plastic Surgery*, 1986, **39**, 565, the article "Tie-over sutures fixed by staples" authored by D. E. Tolhurst and R. E. F. Huygen was printed as being an original concept.

Enclosed for your interest and the sake of intellectual and academic honesty, is a reprint of an article published in *Surgery, Gynecology and Obstetrics*, 1982, **154**, 246. The article was "A simple tie-over-bolus dressing for skin grafts" authored by myself.

It is unfortunate that any republishing of this technique does not include references from at least half-a-dozen other references such as mine, which have modified, altered and improved on this technique.

With great disappointment in your journal,

Yours faithfully

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Reply from Mr Tolhurst

Sir

Dr Christ was perfectly correct in criticising us for not referring to his paper on the subject of tie-over dressings and staples and we, not the British Journal, must take the full blame.

Our idea is very similar to his but I will say we did not attempt to claim it as original and he is thus incorrect in his inference that the article "was printed as being an original concept".

We are most grateful for the interest Dr Christ has shown in this technique which is one I am sure he and we join together in recommending with continued enthusiasm.

Yours faithfully

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