

Letters to the Editor

Nasal splints

Sir

I read with interest the article by Matti and Nicolle on "Use of Orthoplast as nasal splint" in your Journal of July 1986, but was somewhat surprised not to find my name mentioned in the references. An article of mine concerning the use of thermoplastic rubber for external nasal splints was published in *Plastic and Reconstructive Surgery* in 1970. The penalty for inadequate research of the literature is customarily a late acknowledgement.

Steristrips and Isoprene rubber nasal splints are being used by a large number of surgeons in the Western hemisphere. However, I no longer freeze it as I did sixteen years ago, nor would I use ice-cold compresses for fear of loosening even the steristrips. Gradual cooling within a few minutes maintains the shape better. Another advantage of Isoprene nasal splints, when the oedema is down and the tapes removed, is that hot water will allow the splint to be reapplied if desired.

Yours sincerely

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Reference

Freeman, B. S. (1970). A thermoplastic splint for the nose. *Plastic and Reconstructive Surgery*, **46**, 513.

Mr Nicolle replies

Sir

Use of Orthoplast as nasal splint, *British Journal of Plastic Surgery* (1986), **39**, 414

We have acknowledged Dr Freeman's letter, conveying our sincere regret that his paper was inadvertently not included as a reference. We can confirm that it is, indeed, in *Index Medicus* but we could only find it classified under "rhinoplasty", which in part explains our omission.

He comments that the use of heat malleable plastic is widely used as a rhinoplasty splint, but it was because our experience and enquiries indicated the contrary that we chose to publish.

In his letter Dr Freeman implies a lack of proper research of the literature but there is no reference to any other author, technique or other material in his own publication, even though all six references quoted by us were also available to him at the time of his publication.

"And why beholdest thou the mote that is in thy brother's eye, but considerest not the beam that is in thine own eye? . . ." Matthew, Chapter 7, vs 3.

Yours sincerely

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