British Journal of Plastic Surgery (1993), **46**, 173–174

BRITISH JOURNAL OF PLASTIC SURGERY

Ideas and Innovations

A simple device for nasal tube fixation in facial burns patients

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SUMMARY. **In acute facial burns, it is sometimes necessary to insert tubes down one or both nostrils. We describe a simple secure method of fixation.**

In the acute stage of severe burns with facial involvement, the many tubes used for feeding, monitoring, decompression and airway patency are frequently inserted bilaterally through the nostrils.

We found fixation of these tubes a problem. The ideal fixation needs to be easily-made, secure, adjustable and non-traumatic.

The most secure method fairly widely used is direct suture to the nose, but this has the disadvantages of trauma to tissue and difficulty with readjustment.

We have solved this problem by using a simple device made of rubber tubing which is readily available in intensive care units. A short segment of rubber tube 1 cm in diameter is used. By making a cross cut in it (Fig. 1), the "working" tube to pass through the nose can be inserted transversely through this cross-cut hole and is held secure by friction (Fig. 2). It can be easily readjusted if necessary.

A Silastic® suction tube can be finally passed through the lumen of the rubber tube for the patient to wear round the head.

We have used this device in our burns unit for a long period and find it a very convenient way to solve this problem (Fig. 3).

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Paper received 9 July 1992.
Accepted 21 August 1992.

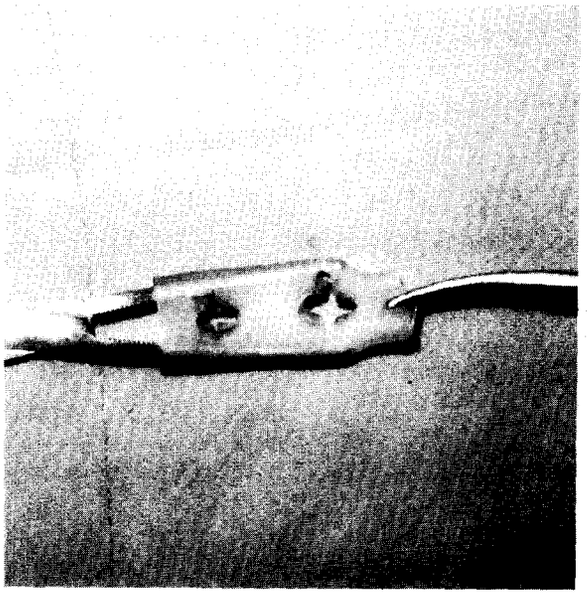

Fig. 1

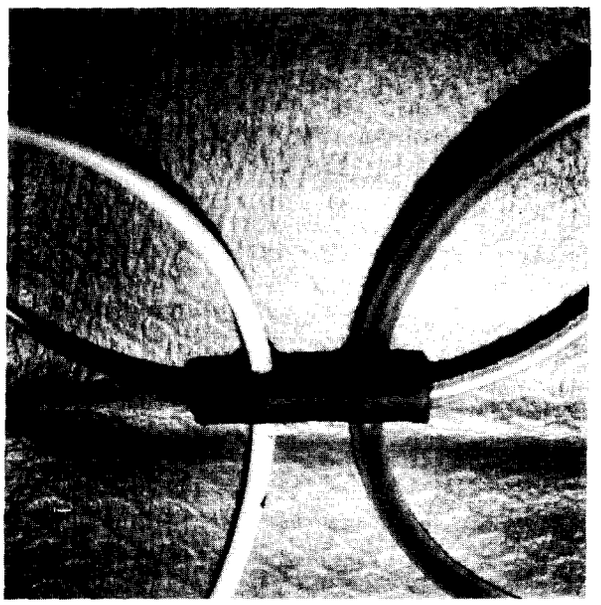

Fig. 2

Fig. 3

Figure 1—Cross cuts made at either side of a short length of rubber tube. **Figure 2**—The trans-nasal tubes inserted through the cross-shaped holes and a fine silastic tube passed through the rubber tube for retention round the head. **Figure 3**—Clinical use of the device.