

# A SUCTION DISSECTOR FOR EXPOSURE OF ORBITAL FRACTURES

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SUB-PERIOSTEAL exposure of the orbital floor must be performed with care to prevent damage to the globe. An instrument has been designed which permits the surgeon

Fig. 1.—The use of the suction dissector during exposure of the floor of the orbit. The surgeon can dissect subperiosteally with one hand under good vision, and with the other hand, protect and retract the globe with a malleable ribbon retractor. The instrument is attached to the suction source by a 16 Fr. plastic Levin tube. The tubing is light and is attached by a swivel mount so it does not hinder delicate movement of the instrument.

Fig. 2.—A photograph of the instrument. It was designed by and is available from Down Bros. and Mayer Phelps Ltd., 261 Davenport Road, Toronto 5, Ontario, Canada.

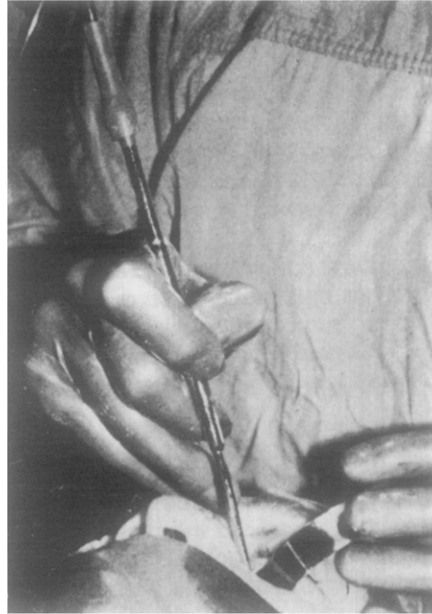


FIG. 1

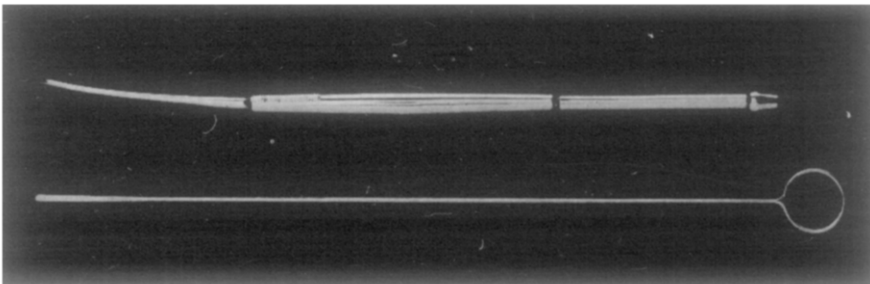


FIG. 2

to retract with one hand and dissect and expose with a suction dissector in the other hand (Fig. 1). Therefore, an assistant is unnecessary for adequate exposure in this precarious area.

As shown in Figure 2, the suction dissector is basically an elliptical stainless steel tube bevelled at the distal end so that the dissector end of a Howarth elevator is simulated, retaining the principle of a suction tube but keeping the end as flat as possible. The tube

is fitted with a round handle partially serrated to improve grip and at the proximal end the tube is continued through the handle to terminate in a swivelling tubing mount. The length of this dissector is  $8\frac{1}{2}$  inches and is made throughout of stainless steel. A stilette is supplied to facilitate cleaning<sup>1</sup>. The instrument is similar to the Nagus aspirating dissector which was designed about 15 years ago but which has a wider dissecting tip and a larger suction aperture.

This instrument greatly improves the safety of dissections about the orbital margin and the floor of the orbit. It is also useful for submucous resection of the nasal septum but is of limited value when the dissection extends into the posterior part of the nasal cavity because of the thickness of the dissecting end. Also it can be used to advantage during cleft palate repair.

<sup>1</sup> I am indebted to Mr N. G. Shove of Down Bros. for his co-operation in designing this instrument.