

Short Communication

A simple and effective frontal sinus stent

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Abstract

We describe a frontal sinus stent which is cheap, easily produced and effective.

Key words: Frontal Sinus; Stents

Various stents have been described to maintain the patency of the nasofrontal duct after a fronto-ethmoidectomy, including thin silastic sheeting,¹ silastic drainage tube,² Foley catheter³ and silicone T tube.⁴

We describe a drain which is cheap, easily produced, retained in the correct position, and effective.

A piece of silastic tubing (Figure 1) is cut to shape (Figure 2) and then turned inside out with the aid of lubricating gel and a haemostat clip (Figures 3 and 4). Inversion of the tube produces a 'new' shape (Figure 5). The upper widened end is retained within the frontal sinus, preventing slippage and the flange at the lower end may be sutured in place to further secure the stent. At the designated time the tube is easily removed by forceps. We have utilized this stent in place for up to six months at a time with no loss of position.

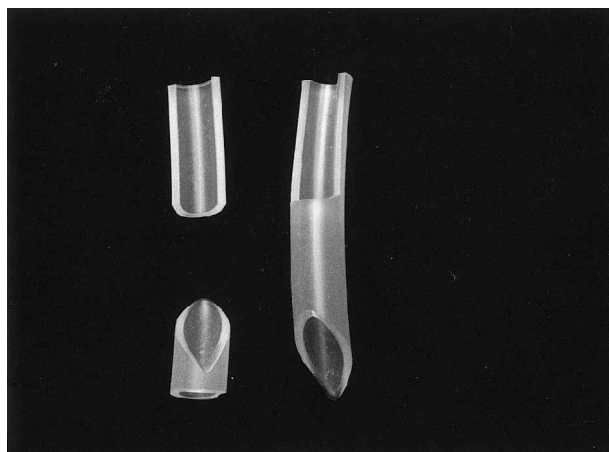


FIG. 2

The two ends are cut to remove the pieces shown on the left.

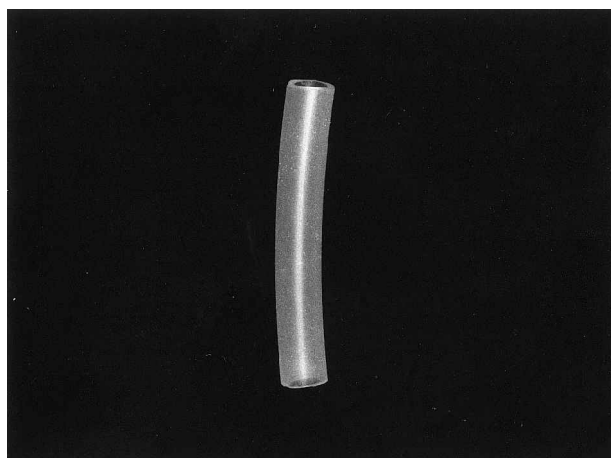


FIG. 1

A piece of silastic tubing of approximately 5 cm length.

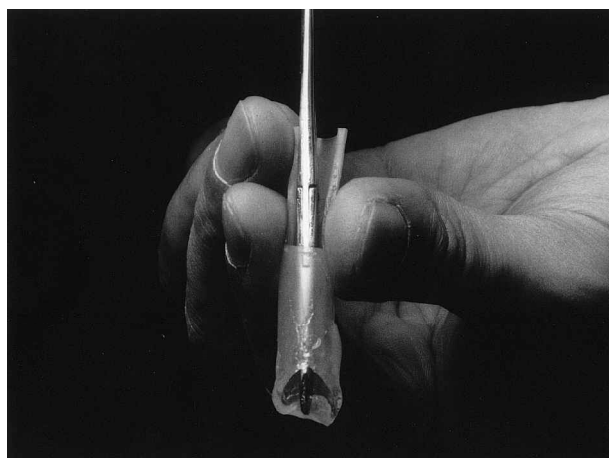


FIG. 3

A haemostat clip is passed through the lubricated tube to grasp the pointed end of the tube.

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FIG. 4

The tube is then turned inside out.

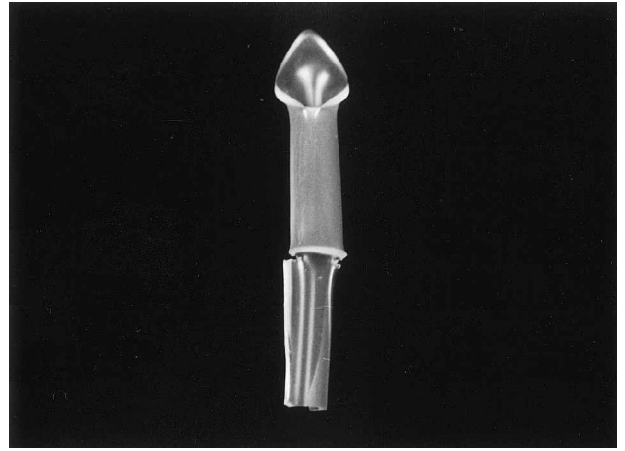


FIG. 5

To form the frontal sinus stent.

Suppliers

Silastic tubing (6.4 mm inside diameter, 9.5 mm outside diameter) supplied by Medasil (Surgical) Ltd., Medasil House, Hunslet Road, Leeds LS10 1AU, UK.

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Mr S Mirza takes responsibility for the integrity of the content of the paper.

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