Easy modification of the endograsp instrument

The Endograsp (USSC) instrument (Fig. 1), an adjustable, near-90° clamp, has greatly facilitated laparoscopic procedures. It is particularly useful for passing Penrose drains and the gastric fundus through the retroesophageal space during funduplications. The large 80° distal curve attainable with this instrument allows for near-right-angle manipulation intraabdominally while still using a rigid 5-mm cylindrical

Fig. 1. Endograsp instrument.

Fig. 2. Axial rotation.

Fig. 3. Allis clamp modification.

port. Unfortunately, we have encountered relatively uncontrolled axial rotation of the deployed distal tip (Fig. 2). This occurred when a rotational load was placed on the deployed segment of the clamp. The finger wheel designed to counteract this can be difficult to adequately control. The potential danger of a clamp rotating in the retroesophageal space is easy to understand.

We have adopted a simple solution to this problem. An Allis clamp is applied to the finger wheel once the distal tip is deployed in the desired plane intraabdominally (Fig. 3). This has solved the problem of unwanted rotation rapidly, reliably, and inexpensively.

To date we have experienced no complications from using this instrument, and with this modification, we expect to have none in the future.

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