

AN AID TO EPIDURAL PUNCTURE

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THOSE who use the "hanging-drop" method to identify the epidural space, as opposed to the "loss of resistance" technique, are frequently faced with the problem of inadvertently touching the drop in the course of advancing the needle whilst exerting pressure on its hub.

In order to obviate this difficulty we have constructed a disposable transparent adaptor which is attached to the needle. It serves the dual purpose of providing a better grip and of removing the hand from the immediate vicinity of the hanging drop (Figure 1). Once the epidural space has been entered, the adaptor

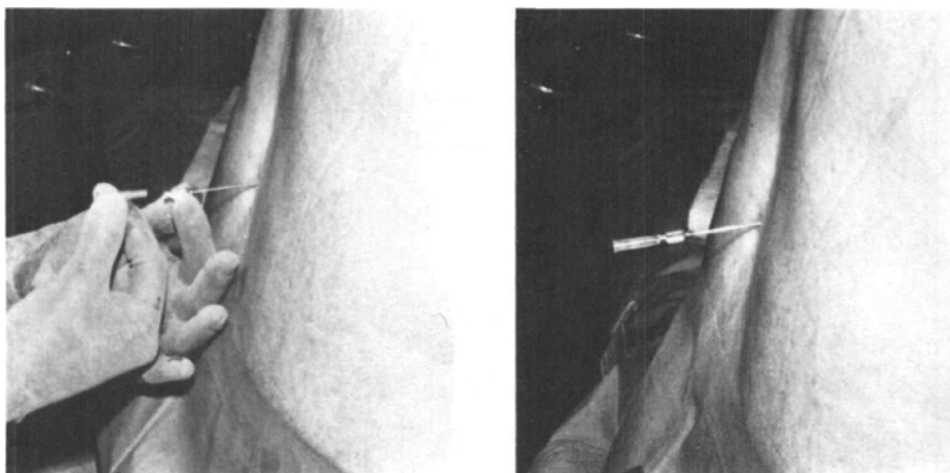


FIGURE 1. Adaptor before (a) and after (b) insertion into the hub.

is removed and discarded, and epidural anaesthesia can be proceeded with in the usual fashion. Aspiration of the fluid along the length of the adaptor is a sine qua non criterion before the injection of the analgesic. Failure of blockade with this method is rare.

RÉSUMÉ

Ceux qui utilisent une goutte d'eau à l'extrémité de leur trocart pour reconnaître l'espace péridural, voient souvent cette goutte leur échapper en la touchant accidentellement pendant l'introduction du trocart.

Pour résoudre cette difficulté nous proposons un adaptateur transparent, d'usage unique, qui s'ajuste au bout du trocart durant l'introduction. L'aspiration du liquide placé dans l'adaptateur indique la pénétration de l'espace épidural. Ce dispositif assure de plus à l'opérateur une meilleure prise sur le trocart. Les échecs avec cette technique sont rares.

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