

Novel Use of a Pressure Bandage for Assistance During Surgery

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The ability to perform surgery efficiently and safely is a necessity to the dermatologic surgeon. Sometimes, depending on various situations, dermatologists may find themselves performing surgery without the luxury of an assistant. One of the most valuable services a surgical assistant provides is blotting excess blood in the field. The authors describe a novel technique to provide temporary blotting and collection of blood for the dermatologic surgeon when a surgical assistant is not readily available.

In the authors' clinic, multiple, small surgical procedures are performed daily. These wounds are often dressed with sterile 3×3-in, 4-ply cotton ultragauze covered by Hypafix conformable retention tape. Hypafix is a nonwoven dressing retention sheet, with a low-allergy adhesive.¹ Hypafix is easily conformable, increasing adhesion to a variety of body parts, while allowing freedom of movement.² It comes in a broad size range to give complete coverage of any wound. Hypafix is indicated for postoperative wound dressing, gauze retention, securing catheter and drainage tubes, and patellofemoral positioning techniques. It is the preferred dressing for burn grafts after sterilization via autoclave.^{1,3,4}

The authors suggest a novel use for the Hypafix dressing that will allow the dermatologist freedom to perform surgical procedures solo. The authors suggest leaving Hypafix attached at the base in a gravitationally dependent position (Figure 1). It can then function to catch any blood or debris that might drip from the surgical field (Figure 2). This same dressing can then be reused after the procedure to cover the wound site. This simple technique can save time for the dermatologist as well as provide a successful way to perform surgery without an assistant.

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Figure 1. An arm wound with a Hypafix bandage attached in a dependent position.



Figure 2. An arm wound with a Hypafix bandage attached that absorbs blood and debris from wound site.

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