

SIMPLIFIED BIOPSY OF THE LIVER IN DOGS

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MANY of our research studies on dogs have required the repeated removal of large liver samples which must be processed immediately for biochemical or other studies. A simplified technique has been used.

The tip of one of the lobes of the liver is gently grasped with a sponge (Fig. 1a). A 0 cotton ligature is placed as far back as is necessary to obtain the required size biopsy. The ligature is then tightened, partially amputating the specimen which is imme-

diately cut free with a scissors or knife (Fig. 1b). If there is residual bleeding from the raw surface through which the cotton ligature has passed, electrocautery may be used. This is rarely necessary. The tip of the lobe of the liver to the left of the gallbladder is the most easily amputated by this method, but the technique can be applied to any of the lobes of the liver. More than one amputation may be performed if large amounts of tissue are needed.

The amputation technique is uniquely suited to the liver of the dog with its multiple, pointed lobes. The elapsed time from performing the amputation until processing of the tissue is ordinarily less than ten or 15 seconds.

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The work was supported by research Grant Nos. MRIS 8118-01 and 7227-01 from the Veterans Administration; by Grant Nos. AM-17260 and AM-07772 from the National Institutes of Health, and by Grant Nos. RR-00051 and RR-00069 from the General Clinical Research Centers Program of the Division of Research Resources, National Institutes of Health.

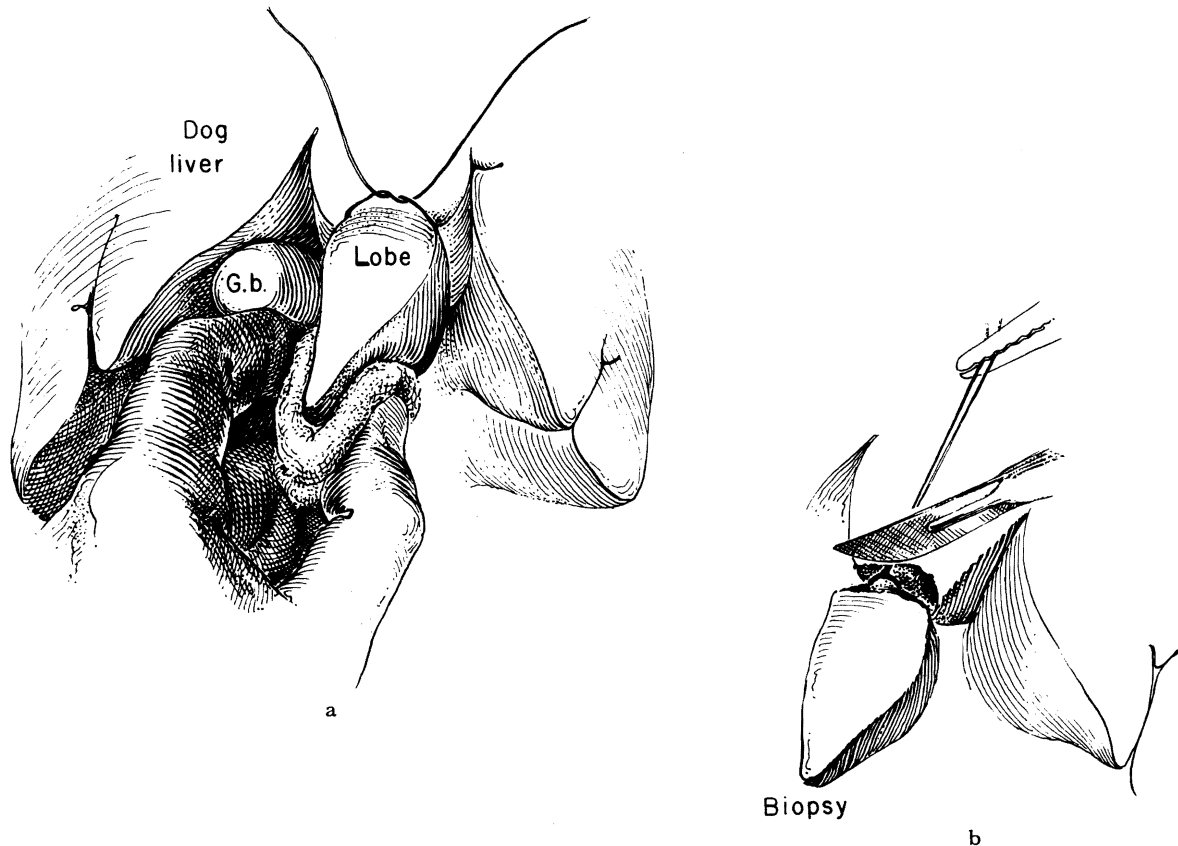


FIG. 1. Technique for biopsy of the liver. a, Amputation is done with cotton ligature. b, The specimen is then cut free.

Reprint from *SURGERY, Gynecology & Obstetrics*, May, 1977, Vol. 144, 759

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