

Skin stapler in Lichtenstein's mesh repair

Dear Editor,

I read with interest the 'Letter to the Editor' by Ashutosh Chauhan on the 'Use of skin stapler in Lichtenstein's Mesh Repair' in the February 2005 issue. I had previously read the article on the same subject by Garg *et al.*

I have also used skin stapler in this procedure. My observations and suggestions are as follows:

- Now-a-days we avoid suturing mesh with periosteum of pubic tubercle because it may give rise to osteitis pubis. Instead, we fix it near the aponeurotic tissue there.
- Around 2.5 cm of the mesh has to be kept protruding beyond pubic tubercle.

- Because the femoral vessels are underlying the inguinal ligament, it is preferable to use prolene sutures in this area to fix the mesh.
- Broad head of the stapler is definitely cumbersome to maneuver but can be managed by retraction of the skin flaps.
- Formerly an end-on skin stapler was available and that was very convenient and ideal to use.
- Once the staples are applied, they remain in position. We had confirmed this in some of our patients by X-rays taken after a few months.

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