

EJVES Extra 2, 89–90 (2001)

doi:10.1053/ejvx.2002.0102, available online at <http://www.idealibrary.com> on IDEAL®EJVES
extra

Abdominal Aortic Compressor

R. J. Croft* and E. Chaloner†

North Middlesex Hospital, Sterling Way, London N18 1QX, U.K.

An instrument bearing the CE Mark is described, which can be used to control life-threatening haemorrhage from a ruptured Abdominal Aortic Aneurysm.

Key Words: Abdominal aortic compressor; CE Mark; Control of haemorrhage from ruptured abdominal aortic aneurysms.

Introduction

A traditional and well recognised method of rapidly controlling life-threatening haemorrhage from the proximal aorta in the presence of a ruptured abdominal aortic aneurysm, particularly when the rupture is intraperitoneal, is the use of a scalloped wooden spoon applied to compress the aorta against the vertebral column. This allows time for dissection and clamping of the infra-renal neck. This method has been used by Vascular and General Surgeons for decades, and has helped to save the lives of many patients.¹

Traditionally the scalloped spoon is shaped from a kitchen baking spoon, and like most wooden kitchen utensils, is made of beechwood. As wood is a porous material, there is now understandable concern regarding the adequate sterilisation of such objects, and there has been a call for them to be removed from instrument trays for this reason. There are a number of synthetic materials resembling wood, which can be manufactured to such a shape, but not all these are completely impervious to fluids, as adjudged by water absorption tests, and can deteriorate with repeated autoclaving. In view of this concern, we have designed a metal aortic compressor as shown in Figure 1. This instrument meets the Essential Requirements of the Medical Devices Directive of the European Union,² and as a purpose built aortic compressor, bears the CE mark, thereby demonstrating conformity to European regulations. This instrument can be safely used to

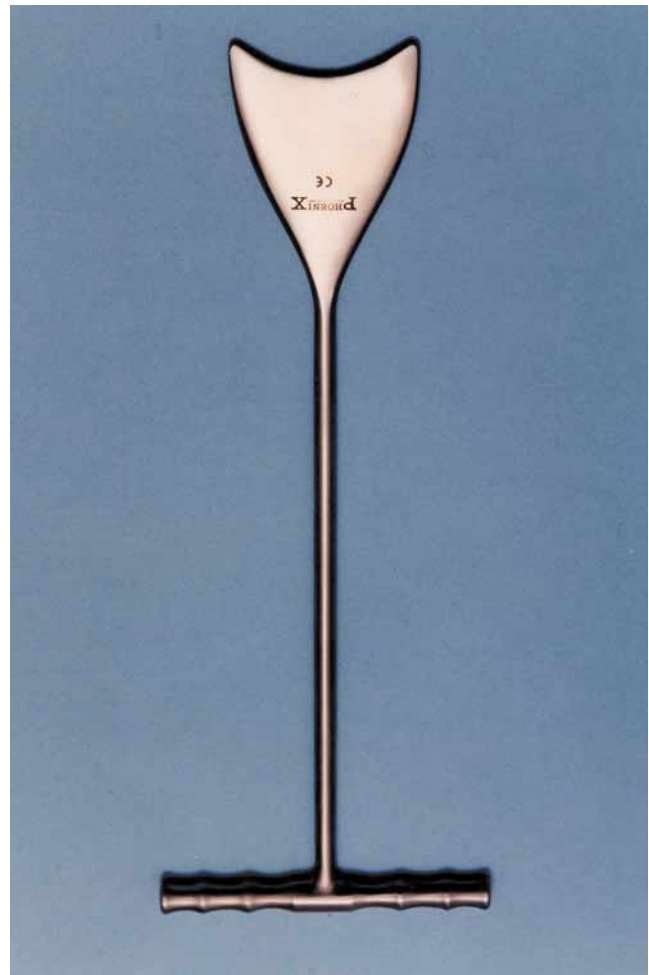


Fig. 1. Abdominal Aortic Compressor.

* Please address all correspondence to: R. J. Croft, North Middlesex Hospital, Sterling Way, London N18 1QX, U.K.

† E. Chaloner, present appointment: Specialist Registrar, The Middlesex Hospital, Mortimer Street, London W1N 8AA, U.K.

control bleeding in emergency surgery for ruptured abdominal aortic aneurysms. It can be obtained from Phoenix Surgical Instruments Ltd., 47, The Maltings, Roydon Road, Stanstead Abbots, Ware, Herts SG12 8HG, England.

References

- 1 MINERVA *BMJ* 1999; **319**: 460.
- 2 BRITISH STANDARDS, BS5572; 1990: 15.