A new suturing needle

G. C. SOOD, SHASHI KAPOOR, GYANAM KRISHNAMURTHY, AND
MANORMA SOOD

From the Jawaharlal Institute of Postgraduate Medical Education and Research, Pondicherry, India

The purpose of this publication is to present a new type of suturing needle for continuous key-hole mattress sutures in ophthalmic practice.

Description of the needle

The needle is a curved cutting needle with an oblong eye in the centre and a sharp-pointed tip at each end. Three needles of different sizes so far have been used in our practice. The measurements are given in the Table.

Technique of suturing

The needle is held close to its eye on the opposite side of the tip to be used for piercing the tissues. The needle is passed until its eye reappears when the suture is pulled through the tissues. The needle is then passed in the reverse direction, being held on the other side of its eye (Figure).

Discussion

The needle has been tested clinically in more than 200 cases of conjunctival suturing—in cataract, glaucoma, and squint surgery—and has been found easy to handle, time saving (as the tip of the needle need not be reversed), and convenient to use even when one of the tips is broken. The central position of the eye can be used for other needles, and may also be employed in plastic and vascular

Address for reprints: Dr G. C. Sood, Professor and Head of the Department of Ophthalmology, Jawaharlal Institute of Postgraduate Medical Education and Research, Pondicherry-6 (South India)

FIGURE Needle being taken out at the completion of the procedure

surgery where good apposition and tight wound closure is required.

We are grateful to Dr D. B. Bisht, Principal, Jawaharlal Institute of Postgraduate Medical Education and Research, Pondicherry, for his guidance and to G. S. Sivarajan, of Surgical Instruments Plant, Madras, for making the needles.

Table *Dimensions of the new needle*

Size	Length (Tip to tip) (cm)	Diameter (mm)			
		Eye	Centre	Body	Tip
Large	1.40	0.28	0.73	0.54	0.01
Medium	1.08	0.14	0.66	0.40	0.01
Small	0.98	0.08	0.56	0.32	0.01