A new instrument for use in retinal detachment surgery

HECTOR B. CHAWLA

Royal Infirmary, Edinburgh

The No. 40 silicone encircling band is widely used and there are many ways of securing its ends—the clove-hitch ligature, the tantalum clip, and a silicone tube sheath.*

The last needs a special instrument for its application and a suitable type of forceps is described here. The tube has an internal diameter of 0.03 in. and an external diameter of 0.06 in., and thus a spreading forceps with extra fine points is required.

A simple substitute for the costly cross-action forceps can be made from a fine mosquito forceps by filing the points to one-third their normal thickness ¼ in. along their length (Fig. 1).

With the tube fitted over the tips and the points spread, the band can be fed through the sheath (Fig. 2); sharpening the ends of the band makes this manoeuvre easier. The final position is shown in Fig. 3 (opposite).

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Address for reprints: Department of Ophthalmology, Royal Infirmary Eye Pavilion, Chalmers Street, Edinburgh EH3 9HA
FIG. 3 The ends of the encircling band held together by the sheath.