



DERMATOLOGICAL SURGERY

18G NEEDLE - MINOR MODIFICATIONS YIELDING SIGNIFICANT ADVANTAGES

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Introduction: The humble 18G hypodermic needle is freely available in pre-sterilized packs, & is used in all major OTs to minor procedure rooms and even in resource poor settings. It is the cheapest, readily available & sturdy instrument anywhere.

Objective: Apart from its primary use for IM & IV injections, with minor modifications, this needle can be used effectively used in various dermatosurgical procedures.

Materials and Methods : We modified this 18G needle to aid us in the following range of procedures.

1. Guide for suturing: using a round bodied needle.
2. Aid in excision of ear lobe keloids: needle was bent in the form of 'J' to hold keloidal tissues while excising.
3. Effective sterile splint: to provide support to ear lobe post surgery, and as a splint providing rest to fingers.
4. Treatment of linear atrophic scars: aiding the rail-road technique of fixing dermal grafts within scars.
5. Creation of dimple: hub of needle as a guide to punch.
6. Hair transplantation: (a) a modified 'L/ Z' shaped needle aids in creation of slits. (b) implantation of hair follicles. (c) to clean the punches during extraction.
7. Sclerotherapy: (a) modified 'Z' shaped needle for sclerosing medium to large varicose veins. (b) to aspirate contents of cystic lesions prior to injecting sclerosant.
8. Vitiligo surgery: to spread a graft over recipient area.
9. Aid to Radio cautery and Cryotherapy: to more effectively treat verrucae, seborrheic keratosis, & corn.

Results: We thus modified 18G needle to aid us in multiple procedures.

Conclusion: Hence, the humble 18G needle is most economical & most adaptable instrument in an OT setting.

